

Fahd to activate \$2b Lebanon fund

JEDDAH (AP) — King Fahd has decided to activate a \$2 billion fund for reconstruction of Lebanon, devastated by 15 years of civil war, Lebanese diplomats said Sunday. King Fahd conveyed his decision to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi during the latter's two-day visit to the kingdom which ended Sunday. The promised financial support would considerably ease Lebanon's economic hardships. It also would boost confidence in the government's ability to preserve peace and restore normalcy to Lebanon. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the diplomats said in addition to activating the fund, King Fahd promised to extend other grants to Lebanon and a joint Lebanese-Saudi committee was formed to look into that country's needs. Saudi Arabia was a key mediator in the Lebanese peace accord that ended the 1975-90 civil strife.

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Arab meeting to go ahead in Cairo

DOHA (R) — Arab League foreign ministers will meet in Cairo this month despite attempts by some Arab states to have the talks shifted to another capital because of a wave of violence in Egypt, a senior Arab official said Sunday. The official said the meeting of the league's 21 members had voted to block the proposal to move the venue of the meeting scheduled for later this month. The source would not say which countries favoured holding the meeting outside Egypt. Sources in Rabat said in March that Morocco had offered to host the meeting to discuss the Middle East peace process. "We should not be the ones to run at the first sign of trouble," said the Arab official whose country voted against moving the meeting.

Resistance, Israelis trade artillery fire

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Resistance fighters launched two attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon Sunday, drawing retaliatory artillery barrages, security sources said. There was no immediate word on casualties, added the sources. But the Hezbollah claimed that three Israeli soldiers were killed in the second attack. A Hezbollah communiqué said its guerrillas fired several mortar rounds on a hilltop Israeli army position in Shoumariyeh at 4:10 p.m. (1310 GMT), on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. It said two Israeli armoured vehicles were set on fire. A second guerrilla squad detonated a roadside bomb while an Israeli patrol was driving towards Shoumariyeh from the vicinity of the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle. "The explosion went off as enemy soldiers headed to inspect the two burning vehicles, killing three Israeli soldiers," the statement said. The claim could not be immediately substantiated.

Aid agencies evacuate Kismayu

MOGADISHU (R) — Two leading aid agencies have pulled out of the southern Somali port of Kismayu because they fear they will be attacked by warring clans, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday. Farouk Mawlawi told reporters the Brussels-based aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres had withdrawn its staff from Kismayu. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the main distributor of food in the area, closed down its Kismayu operation Wednesday after hand grenades lobbed into the ICRC compound (see page 2 for stories related to Somalia).

Pakistan vows to fail Kashmir march

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan vowed Sunday to stop thousands of demonstrators threatening to storm across the disputed ceasefire line into India's violence-wracked Kashmir state. Authorities dynamited giant chunks of the mountain to block the only road leading to the narrow border crossing at Chakothi, about 50 kilometres from the Himalayan capital of Muzaffarabad. "We'll stop them. They won't be allowed to cross the border," they vowed to cross the border, said Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain. But the march organisers, Mumtaz Rathore, vowed to risk death rather than turn back. "We will continue until death stops us, not before," Mr. Rathore told a frenzied mob of demonstrators.

Bomb hoax at AUC

CAIRO (AP) — The American University in Cairo (AUC) was partially evacuated Sunday after an anonymous caller claimed a bomb was planted in the library. A nearly two-hour search of the university's main library and a smaller one containing a collection of rare books found no bombs and classes resumed normally. The American University in Cairo is a private university, accredited in the United States. It was founded in 1919. Security has been increased at the university with uniformed guards at the gates checking bags of people entering the campus, for fear of attacks by Muslim militants who escalated their violent campaign last year. Dozens of plainclothes security men also have crowded downtown area.

Major changes at Armed Forces

Abu Taleb retires; Mirai is named successor

Shurdom leaves service, named King's advisor

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sunday made several changes in the hierarchy of the Armed Forces, continuing a series of retirements and replacements at the head of the Kingdom's security forces.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a royal decree was issued endorsing a Cabinet decision to accept a request by Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that he be retired.

Another decree named Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh as Field Marshal Abu Taleb's successor.

The King also endorsed a Cabinet decision to retire Lieutenant-General Ihsan Hameed Shurdom, chief of staff of the Air Force, upon his request, and appointed him as an advisor to His Majesty.

Informed sources said more reshuffles and resignations were expected at the Armed Forces headquarters. That will be carried by Lt. Gen. Mirai, whose appointment takes effect from Monday.

Gen. Kaabneh, 56, who served as member of the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, was the chief of military intelligence prior to his promotion Monday.

The new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a graduate of the



Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb

Royal Military Academy of Jordan, holds a masters degree in military science from the Royal College of Defence Studies in England.

In 1962, he was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in the battlefield.

Royal decrees issued Sunday accepted the retirement of Fadel Ali Fheid as director-general of the Public Security Department (PSD) and appointed Major-General Abdul Rahman Udwan as his successor. The King also promoted the outgoing PSD chief to the rank of lieutenant-general and awarded him the Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order.



Lt. Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh

In a message he sent Sunday to Field Marshal Abu Taleb, the King paid tribute to the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I have known you throughout your working life in the military, offering a distinguished performance and serving as a true faithful soldier and a true military leader never shirking his responsibility," the King said in his message.

"You have lived through the various stages of the development of the Armed Forces alongside officers and troops, and through your efforts you have helped in building up a distinguished armed forces which serve as a shield protecting the nation and holding the standard of the Great Arab

Revolt and defending its principles," the King said.

Praising Field Marshal Abu Taleb's service over the past 40 years in the Armed Forces, the King said that the retired chief of staff will always "remain a dear brother" enjoying his absolute confidence, affection and appreciation.

King Hussein also congratulated the new army chief wishing him success in his leadership of the Armed Forces.

"I have known you as a courageous and faithful soldier and one among a distinguished elite of senior officers who continue to enjoy my affection and who continue to struggle to uphold the principles of the Arab Nation and defend its honour," King Hussein said.

In reaffirming the need for the armed forces' continued preparedness, the King said "every effort should be made to raise the standards of the Armed Forces and the armed forces institutions and colleges."

"We take pride in the armed forces which has inherited the noble values of the Great Arab Revolt and therefore the army should be ready to offer sacrifice in defence of the Arab Nation," the King added.

King Hussein voiced his absolute confidence in the Armed Forces and the new chief and

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Arab labour conference opens in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opens an Arab Labour Conference with the participation of all Arab League member states including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia along with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. The delegations to the conference include employers, workers and government representatives. Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, who will represent Jordan at the meeting, said in a statement Sunday that Jordan would submit a working paper proposing a practical mechanism to deal with the problem of unemployment in the Arab World.

The working paper calls for a

gradual reduction of the volume of unemployment as an initial stage and drastically tackling the problem in the second stage, the minister said.

He said that Jordan was calling for the creation of national funds in the Arab countries suffering from high levels of unemployment to finance small-size income-generating projects, especially those operated by college graduates, and for vocational training in agrarian reform, construction and other fields.

Mr. Kabarti added that the strategic document in this regard will hinge on the economic situation in the Arab World indicating the disparities between economic growths in Arab countries, with clear reference to the levels of

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King meets Arab ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday at the Royal Court Omani Minister of Labour Sheikh Ahmad Ben Salem Al Eisa, who is currently in Amman to attend the Arab labour ministers conference which will open Monday.

The Omani minister conveyed to King Hussein the greetings of Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed of Oman and expressed appreciation of King Hussein's leadership.

The minister also lauded the distinguished relations between Jordan and Oman and commended the leaderships of the two countries for their keenness to enhance relations.

The King asked the visiting minister to convey his greetings to Sultan Qaboos and voiced his hope that the Arab labour conference will be a good omen, auguring well for the Arab Nation.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

King Hussein also received Qatar's Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing Abdul Rahman Al Dirham and Bahraini Labour Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al Khalifeh. The two meetings were attended by Dr. Karaki.

Israeli troops raid Gaza refugee camp

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli troops clamped a curfew on an occupied Gaza Strip refugee camp and searched house to house on Sunday for Arab suspects and weapons, security sources said.

Israel has barred the 800,000 Palestinians of Gaza from leaving the strip for a week following a spate of attacks on Jews. The occupied West Bank has been closed since Wednesday.

An Israeli officer told army radio that troops closed Maghazi refugee camp from 2 a.m. on Sunday and were combing houses for Palestinians activists.

Security sources said the raid was part of a fresh crackdown on Palestinians in Gaza, a poor coastal strip which has seethed with unrest since Israel expelled 415 Arabs to Lebanon in December.

The central Gaza camp is home to 15,000 Palestinians.

Troops conducted a similar raid Friday in Gaza's Shati refugee camp. Israeli forces searched house to house and rounded up hundreds of Palestinian men and boys. Most were released.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said the indefinite closure of the occupied territories had reduced violent incidents.

"The security forces are using a variety of measures in order to locate fugitives who are responsible for the murders of Israelis and Palestinians in order to bring about tranquillity in these camps," he said.

The closure was expected to remain in force at least until after the first day of Passover which ends on Tuesday night.

Palestinians called the closure a collective punishment that would

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Palestinian leaders debate peace talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestinian leadership has begun a crucial session on whether or not to send negotiators to the next round of Middle East peace talks with Israel, set to open April 20 in Washington.

But Palestinian officials said that, with the impasse over Israel's expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon and the new crackdown on the more than two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, the answer could be a flat "No."

"Our stand now is not accept the invitation to resume negotiations on April 20," chief negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi said before the closed-door meeting started late Saturday at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, who heads the PLO Information

Department, said the meeting would run through Tuesday and possibly longer.

"All that I can say is that there is nothing new" coming from the United States, lead co-sponsor with Russia of the peace process launched 17 months ago in Madrid, Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

"We are discussing all the options, to go or not to go, or to not take a final decision and continue the discussions and consultations," he said.

A call for a postponement of the next round of Arab-Israeli talks had not been excluded, he added.

Diplomats said they do not expect a clear Palestinian answer before Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington Tuesday.

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Mubarak said seeking meeting with Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Sunday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in Washington to try to revive Middle East peace talks, wants to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after his return.

Arab negotiators have refused to renew peace talks in Washington on April 20 until a deadlock is broken over Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of six Palestinians to Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said the Egyptian ambassador to Israel requested a few days ago an Israeli-Egyptian summit but no date or place was

set. "We've known for some time that Mubarak was interested in meeting with Rabin after his trip to Washington but again in terms of exact dates and in terms of location, nothing is set," Mr. Ben-Ari told Reuters.

A flurry of diplomatic activity is planned before the peace talks are due to resume, Mr. Mubarak, on a five-day U.S. visit, meets President Bill Clinton Tuesday.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Sunday that Arab participants at the talks — Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the

Palestinians — would send teams to Washington Saturday (see page 2).

Mr. Mubarak met Mr. Rabin in Cairo in July and agreed to visit Israel. Such a trip would be the first since Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin hosted Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981 in Sinai, then held by Israel but later returned to Egypt.

Israeli diplomats say the next step would be for Mr. Mubarak to phone Mr. Rabin. The two have spoken to each other by phone at least half a dozen times during the past six months.

According to Israeli diplomats, the impetus for such a summit comes from the Arabs. They believe such a high-level encounter could lead Mr. Rabin to relax terms and thereby enable the Palestinians to return to the peace talks. In particular, the Palestinians want Mr. Rabin to agree some of those expelled from the occupied territories between 1967-1970 could return, just as they would like Israel to expedite the return of the nearly 400 Hamas exiles who are scheduled to return at the end of the year.

Iraq arrests 300 traders for overcharging

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's economic crime squads have arrested 300 traders in a crackdown on overcharging. The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, reporting the latest phase in Iraq's struggle with the effects of Gulf war trade sanctions, called Sunday for a "deadly strike against these thieves, who deserve everybody's curses." Penalties for overcharging on price-controlled basic foods include six months in prison and confiscation of goods. But a similar crackdown last year led to the execution of 42 traders. An official newspaper warned last week that "harsh and stiff penalties" imposed in the past had not been effective. The authorities now threaten to arrest customers who pay inflated prices as well as the traders who sell to them, although there are no reports that they have actually done so. Lieutenant-Colonel Hashim Mohammad Faraj warned in a newspaper interview Sunday that his economic crime squads, scattered all around Baghdad, would not hesitate to treat both parties of an illegal bargain alike.



His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sunday visits the Army General Headquarters where he was received by the outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of staff of the land forces, the outgoing chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, the assistants of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the inspector general. King Hussein had a meeting with Field Marshal Abu Taleb.

King underlines Jordan's commitment to respect for human rights, freedoms

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a message to the new director of the Public Security Department (PSD), Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, congratulating him on his post and voicing absolute support for and pride in the security services of Jordan.

"Your choice as PSD director was in conformity with our principle of entrusting well-experienced leaders with serious responsibilities of this nature and in front positions in different fields of national service," the King said in his message.

"I seize this opportunity to reaffirm that our country has remained and will remain an oasis of security, tranquillity and stability and will continue to uphold a great message that calls for respect of the values of life, and safeguard human freedom, security and dignity," King Hussein said.

"As we are crossing a new threshold in Jordan's march towards political development, we give due support for the rule of the law at a time when we feel that responsibilities are becoming

greater for every one," he added. "We trust that, armed with awareness and vigilance, we are no doubt deepening our sense of security, dignity, freedom, democracy and human rights which should not be contested or compromised," King Hussein said.

"Huge efforts are needed to protect them and we would carry out this responsibility under all circumstances and crises."

"Jordan has served as an illuminant beacon for those seeking new hope," he said. "Jordan has renounced and fought off intellectual terrorism and has never condoned violence, fanaticism, malice and anarchy, but has rather opted for tolerance with firmness that can best ensure security."

"The PSD will continue to embrace and support higher values and noble ideals and will continue to serve as strong arm of justice and a bridge for all citizens seeking security and progress."

Major-General Udwan, who was appointed PSD chief by a Royal Decree which took effect Sunday, was educated at Alexandria University where he graduated with a

law degree in 1968. He has served with the PSD ever since.

The posts he had assumed include as head of the police court and the head of the PSD's legal affairs department, and head of the badia and border police force. He also served as head of the Balqa and Irbid governorates' police departments before serving as PSD deputy chief for planning and operations until his new appointment.

The PSD Sunday announced a limited reshuffle among its senior officers.

Brigadier Ahmad Khasawneh became director of residency and border department, Brig. Izzeddin Zaza became commander of the police academy, Brigadier Adel Armouti became director of the preventive security branch, Colonel Hisham Ensour became director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, Lt. Colonel Mohammad Suleiman became director of the PSD's diwan, and Lt. Colonel Fadel Al Dubeis became director of the Aqaba police department.

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Russian President Boris Yeltsin (left) leads the way through the underbrush with U.S. President Bill Clinton (centre) and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on a walk in the garden in Vancouver in-t-t-two: summit sessions of the U.S. and Russian leaders (AFP photo)

Summit produces \$1.6b aid package for Russia

VANCOUVER (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton prepared a more than \$1.6 billion aid package for Russian President Boris Yeltsin Sunday as the two leaders wrapped up their first summit.

Mr. Clinton, who began his second summit day with a brisk jog, was formally announcing his aid package at a joint news conference with Mr. Yeltsin ending the two-day summit in this picturesque western Canadian seaport.

But administration officials unveiled details earlier in the day. It includes \$690 million in direct grants, \$700 million in grain and other food credits and \$230 million in other aid.

Mr. Clinton's package — designed to help maintain political and economic reforms in Russia — also would establish a "democracy corps" of Americans to engage in "people-to-people" contacts with Russians.

Mr. Clinton concluded the first day's meetings with "a strong sense that President Yeltsin is going to return to Russia with a

strong commitment to turning that country around," said his spokesman, George Stephanopoulos, in a CNN interview Sunday.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the U.S. aid proposal was just one part of a "multilateral effort in trying to see democracy progress in Russia and going back to market system."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, said the summit demonstrates to the Russian people that "we are not alone in the world," Mr. Bentsen was interviewed Sunday on CBS and Mr. Kozyrev on ABC.

"The United States has a great deal to gain from a strong, successful, democratic Russia," Mr. Clinton said Saturday, with Mr. Yeltsin at his side. "It is in our interests, and I am very encouraged by the things that President Yeltsin has stood for and the fight that he's waging."

For his part, Mr. Yeltsin separately told reporters: "For him (Clinton), what is happening in Russia is just as important as the

national interests of America. You understand. That's very interesting and pretty unusual. "I am very satisfied," he added. "You know, we developed a kind of psychological perception, contact with each other despite the difference in our ages."

Mr. Yeltsin is 62, Mr. Clinton 46.

The president took a 30-minute early-morning jog through a waterfront park before their Sunday meeting. To a shouted query on why Mr. Yeltsin wasn't accompanying him, Mr. Clinton responded: "He's got more sense."

Mr. Clinton was also attending services at a Baptist church before meeting Mr. Yeltsin for the final summit session.

As he jogged, he was dogged most of the way by three inflatable power boats from Greenpeace, an environmental and peace activist group, bearing the words "stop," "nuclear" and "test."

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Bouez: U.S. siding with Israel in peace process

DOHA (R) — Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has said the Clinton administration was siding with Israel instead of being an impartial mediator in the stalled Middle East peace process.

"Assuming a role of a fair and trusted mediator means that the United States cannot be a strategic ally of Israel and at the same time be a fair or trusted mediator," Mr. Bouez said.

He was speaking to Reuters Saturday in the Qatari capital of Doha where he is holding talks on economic cooperation.

Mr. Bouez criticised statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Congress last week in which he described Israel as Washington's strategic ally and expressed commitment to the Jewish state's military superiority in the region.

"There is mystery and vagueness in some contradictory statements that are made and what is needed is a clarification of these positions in a firm way," Mr. Bouez said.

He said teams representing the Arabs involved in the peace process — Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Palestinians — would go to Washington on April 10 to seek clarification of Mr. Christopher's comments.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in Madrid 17 months ago were stalled by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians on December 17 to South Lebanon.

Mr. Bouez said the Arab negotiating teams were also awaiting the outcome of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's talks with President Bill Clinton in Washington this week.

He said Mr. Mubarak would focus on a time frame for the return of all the expellees rather than a phased return by the end of the year as has been suggested by Washington.

"We are not asking for something new. We are demanding that the United States abide by its role as stipulated in the letters of assurances," presented by the former administration of President George Bush before the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in October 1991.

Asked what the Arabs wanted from the United States, Mr. Bouez said it had to "play an effective role, be a true driving force and a full partner in the peace process."

He said Lebanon would not go to the negotiating table without the Palestinian team. "We either all go or nobody goes. I assert that we will not accept any inter-Arab divisions."

Mr. Bouez said he would meet the foreign ministers of Syria and Jordan and the foreign affairs chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on April 16 to decide whether to accept an invitation by the United States and Russia to Arabs and Israelis to attend the ninth round of talks on April 20 in Washington.

They met in Damascus on March 28, but delayed a decision to allow time for consultations among Arab states and the co-sponsors on resolving the expellee crisis.

Palestinians say they want U.S. guarantees that Israel carries out promises offered to Palestinians to revive the talks.

The pledges in return for Palestinian participation in the April 20 talks included rescheduling the return of Palestinian expellees and a promise to offer a new proposal on self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip when the talks resume.

Israel, in a deal worked out with Washington, agreed to take back 101 expellees and repatriate the rest in phases before the end of the year. The move angered Arabs who had demanded Israel's full compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, calling for their immediate return.

In Marj Al Zohour, Lebanon, Palestinian expellees urged Arabs Sunday to reject a phased return as a compromise to restart the peace talks.

"A staged return of deportees means accepting the legality of deportation... we do not accept a staged return," spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi told reporters at their tent camp.

"We urge the PLO never to resume the peace talks even if the deportees return to our homes... If the Palestinians put a stop to the talks then all the Arabs will end them," he added.

Most of the 396 exiles remaining from 415 expelled 109 days ago are sympathisers or members of Islamic groups.

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MARKETPLACE: Egyptian soldiers buy products from Palestinian women at the Rafah border crossing in northeastern Egypt used for passage by most Israelis and Palestinians crossing to and from Egypt to the occupied territories (AFP photo)

Defence lawyers say fair trial preempted in New York blast

NEW YORK (AP) — The lawyer for one of the World Trade Center bombing defendants said he first learned of a letter claiming responsibility when he read it in the New York Times.

It remains the only place Robert Precht has seen the note. Such evidence, much of it judiciously leaked, has assuaged national fears about terrorism since the February blast. But, the defence lawyers, at what cost?

"It seems to be a systematic effort by the government to convince America they've caught the right people," complained Mr. Precht, who represents accused bomber Mohammad Salameh.

"It undermines the chances for a fair trial."

The defence lawyers said the potential jury pool for five men arrested has been prejudiced by information — some of it bogus or otherwise inadmissible as evidence — leaked to reporters by investigators or government officials.

"It's a trial by leak, trial by press conference," said Leonard Weinglass, attorney for Nidal Ayyad.

While newspapers and television stations are getting the information, the lawyers said they still have no access to basic evidence involving search warrants and their clients' statements.

"In essence, we're blind men behind a curtain fighting shadows," said lawyer Ron Kuby, representing Ibrahim Al Gabrowny.

Mr. Weinglass said he has received only a three-page inventory of items seized from Mr. Ayyad after his March 10 arrest.

Search warrants were executed at Ayyad's home and office; Mr. Weinglass knew nothing about either.

Kate Cosenza, spokeswoman for U.S. attorney Roger Hayes, denied there has been a problem in turning over the evidence. At a Thursday hearing, U.S. District Judge Kevin T. Duffy ruled the defence would begin getting some evidence Monday.

Mr. Duffy also imposed a gag rule, over defence objections, barring further statements by either side. "The next time I pick up a paper and see a quotation from any of you, you had best be prepared to have some money," Mr. Duffy warned them.

All five defence attorneys were interviewed Wednesday by the Associated Press before the gag rule was imposed. They indicated that such a ruling would be too late because the damage was already done.

Four jailed suspects in the bombing, and a fifth man arrested on obstruction of justice charges, deny involvement in the Feb. 26 explosion that killed six, injured more than 1,000 and crippled the nation's second-tallest building. A sixth suspect remains at large.

Their attorneys portray the suspects as religious men, family men, innocent men.

"If you could see my client in the flesh, he looks like a Rutgers chemistry graduate," Mr. Weinglass, whose client is a chemistry graduate from the New Jersey state university.

The portrayals on TV are of a bomb-throwing militant.

Mahmoud Abu Halima's attorney, Jesse Berman, said he was stunned that his client was

greeted by a camera crew when he was flown back to the United States under tight security after his arrest in Egypt, then rushed by motorcade to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters in Manhattan.

"That's what they want: Time magazine to run photos of the four defendants," Mr. Berman said. "If there never was a trial, they'd be happy. They can't be doing better than they are now. It's all downhill from here."

But the lawyers' complaints that the leaks are poisoning potential jurors are challenged by attorneys representing the news media.

"That refrain is a constant one heard from defence counsel," said Richard Winfield, a New York lawyer who represents the Associated Press and other media. "I can think of cases with far more coverage for far longer time which produced juries who acquitted defendants."

Among the several damaging leaks cited by the defence attorneys:

A report saying Mr. Salameh and another suspect were seen together at a gasoline station the morning of the explosion. "It's completely untrue," said Mr. Precht.

Reports of a bank account shared by Mr. Salameh and Mr. Ayyad that was used to funnel foreign funds. "You're going to find out there was no foreign money," said Mr. Weinglass.

Mr. Kuby has another gripe. His client, Mr. Elgabrowny, has never been charged in the bombing, yet he's behind bars without bail. His crime: Scuffling with two FBI agents executing a search warrant at his apartment.

Egypt defends handover of blast suspect

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki Saturday defended his government's handover of an Egyptian-born suspect in a New York bombing, telling parliament Mahmoud Abu Halima's "effective nationality" was American.

Egypt has been drawn in to the investigation of Feb. 26 bombing at the World Trade Centre in the past week. Political leaders have suggested links between suspects in New York and a surge of political violence at home and come under attack for handing Mr. Abu Halima over to a Western power.

The government stated a day after FBI investigators took charge of Mr. Abu Halima at Cairo airport that he had freely gone back to the United States to clear his name.

But opposition newspapers have continued to harry it with the issue, linking it to the case of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind Egyptian-born cleric who preached to the New York suspects and is revered by Muslim militants in Egypt as a spiritual guide.

Mr. Abu Halima left the United States just after the bombing and entered Egypt from Saudi Arabia on March 11. He was detained in his hometown on March 14 and flew back to New York on March 24.

Mr. Sedki gave the number of the German travel document Mr. Abu Halima had used to enter Egypt as a foreigner and cited international law as saying that Mr. Abu Halima's citizenship and long residence in the United States meant he was no longer Egyptian.

The United States is Egypt's close ally but many Egyptians still harbour deep suspicion about the West because of its support for Israel and what they see as its hostility to Islam.

"In the light of his many nationalities, his permanent residence in the U.S. with his wife and children, the presence of his work and all his financial interests there, the complete cut-off of his ties with Egypt since 1980 and his entry as a foreigner, his effective nationality is American," Mr. Sedki said.

Al Shaab newspaper, owned by the fundamentalist-leaning Socialist Labour Party, again accused the government of swapping Mr. Abu Halima for Sheikh Abdul Rahman's deportation, challenging government statements to the contrary.

"This was a position not seen in Egypt's most servile days."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Aid workers warn of Sudan violence

NAIROBI (AP) — Foreign aid workers evacuated from southern Sudan said Saturday that one of the rebel factions is planning a major offensive against its rivals. Robert Hardley, an information officer with the U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan, said there were massive movements of forces loyal to Colonel John Garang, founder of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Mr. Hardley was among 17 workers of the U.N. and other humanitarian organisations evacuated Friday. "The evacuation was due to insecurity and indications that the Garang faction was planning major attacks," Mr. Hardley said. Col. Garang heads the insurgents' so-called Torit faction. The other major group, led by Riak Machar, is called the Nasir faction. The rebels took up arms 10 years ago to press for increased autonomy for the predominantly Christian and animist south, traditionally dominated by the Muslim north. Col. Garang offered a unilateral ceasefire Feb. 18 and the government reciprocated the following day. However, clashes among the rebels have continued. The United Nations has estimated that starvation and the war have killed about 350,000 since 1990 in southern Sudan. Other aid agencies say the figure might be as high as one million over the length of the war. An estimated 2.5 million people are displaced.

11 rebels killed in eastern Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Eleven Kurdish rebels were killed in a clash with security forces in eastern Erzurum province Saturday night, Turkish radio reported Sunday. It said seven soldiers were slightly wounded. More than 5,400 people have been killed in violence related to the armed campaign launched in 1984 by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) for a separate homeland in southeastern Turkey.

Iran parliament chief to visit Europe

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri will visit Croatia, Greece and Poland from Tuesday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Saturday. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, who is a Muslim cleric, will be accompanied by Iran's ministers of commerce and housing and a number of parliament deputies on the week-long official tour, it said.

Syria gets \$300 million phone system

DAMASCUS (R) Syria has begun using a new international dialing exchange as part of a \$300 million project to expand and upgrade the country's telephone system, a government official said Sunday. Ali Ma'rouf, deputy chief of the Telephone and Telecommunication Authority, said the 7,100-circuit international exchange was now in use. He said the full project, to be complete over the next two years, would include 700,000 telephone lines and a telephone network covering the entire country. Kuwait extended loans totalling \$180 million for the project in which Germany's Siemens A.G. is the leading contractor, he said. Asked when all those applying for phone lines, especially in Damascus, would get lines Mr. Ma'rouf said he expected the shortage would be met by 1998. The government has approved another 250,000-line project and work is expected to start after completion of the current one.

Ozal starts tour of ex-Soviet states

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal has begun an 11-day tour of five ex-Soviet states as part of Ankara's efforts to widen cooperation, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Sunday. Mr. Ozal's tour, lasting through April 15, will take him to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and on the last leg to Azerbaijan, where the Armenian forces have gained control of almost 100 PCT of Azeri territory in the last few days. Turkey said Saturday it would not allow passage of aid convoys bound for Armenia. Mr. Ozal, in an airport statement made no mention of the Armenian attacks, but said he would discuss with his counterparts the implementation of various agreements already signed and exchange views on further cooperation. Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin is also taking part in the trip.

Turkish BBC guide to be tried in Iraq

LONDON (R) — A Turkish guide who led a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) film crew on a fatal trip into northern Iraq is to be tried for murder by Iraqi Kurds, the Sunday Times reported. Crew members Nick Della Casa, his wife Rosanna and Charles Maxwell disappeared while covering the Kurdish rebellion against the Baghdad government after the end of the Gulf war. The bodies of the two men were found in May 1991, two months after their disappearance, but Rosanna is still missing. The Sunday Times said Hashim Cifci, a Turkish Kurd, faced the death penalty if found guilty at the hearing due in the next six weeks in the city of Erbil, in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. The newspaper said Mr. Cifci, described as a deserter from the Turkish army, had told British policemen who visited him in prison in northern Iraq that he shot Mr. Della Casa and Mr. Maxwell after an argument over money. The report said he claimed that he allowed Rosanna to go free but Kurdish sources suspect that he also murdered her. Two other Turkish Kurds were also expected to stand trial accused of aiding and abetting Mr. Cifci. The trial can take place in northern Iraq because the Kurds have set up their own judicial system, independent of Baghdad, the Sunday Times said.

Iran, Malaysia sign economic accords

NICOSIA (AP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad met in Tehran Sunday with Iranian officials and supervised the signing of several agreements to boost economic ties between the two countries, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying in a meeting with Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that his country was looking to speed up cooperation. In order to reduce our dependence on advanced countries of the West and the north we need a strong economy and a powerful government, and it is with this aim that we are ready for the speedy expansion of ties with Islamic Iran," the radio quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying. Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that Western countries were dependent on the vast resources of Islamic countries. "Therefore Muslims can attain their rights by strengthening coexistence, unity, friendly ties and common thought," Mr. Mahathir's 180-member delegation, comprising officials and businessmen, met with Iranian officials and signed agreements on economic and commercial cooperation, the radio said.

Somalia's oasis of peace isolated from relief aid

BOSASSO, Somalia (R) — Politicians in Bosasso say peace is this north-eastern port's worst enemy because relief efforts target only the trouble spots in Somalia.

"All the relief efforts are concentrated on Mogadishu and the southern parts of Somalia. Rather than being rewarded for having a good security situation, I feel we are being punished," said Mohammad Abshir Muse, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the dominant party in the region.

The handful of aid agencies in the port urged the U.N. Special Envoy, retired Admiral Jonathan Howe, in a visit to Bosasso Saturday, to pump funds into the ailing district.

In line with the rest of Somalia, the region's infrastructure and economy is in tatters. But apart from the occasional theft, Mr. Muse said the area, rocky port was tranquil.

The north-eastern part of Somalia has become a haven for nearly 300,000 refugees and displaced people. This put an enormous strain on local people.

Hadi Chikh Bouchan of the World Food Programme (WFP) said the area desperately needed more medical staff and a school. "Malnutrition was rife and tuberculosis widespread."

He urged the support of international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), but no one is prepared to come here because it is so quiet. I think NGOs prefer to go to the more spectacular areas where they have the cover of the U.N., he said, referring to the television channel, Cable News Network.

United Nations troops who arrived in December focussed their efforts on the central and southern parts of Somalia, the scene of the most violent warfare and Somalia.

The United Nations, under Adam Howes, a colonel and former commander of one of the

Somalia from next month. Adm. Howe assured aid agencies and politicians he would closely examine the area's problems.

"We want to pay attention to this region and reward people's efforts for keeping peace. I hope that I can encourage NGOs to join you so that you will not be so alone," Adm. Howe said.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) earmarked \$10 million for the area and the project was due to begin in February.

"The programme was meant to start in February, but not even \$10 has been spent yet," said Humley Anderson, the U.N. director in the region.

Adm. Howe said he would speak to the UNDP on his return to Mogadishu. The town's port would be a focal development project, he said.

Bosasso's port area is the economic lifeline of the area and hundreds of thousands of goats are exported from there every year to Middle Eastern countries.

Just before the war, Italians launched an ambitious project to modernise the port, but this was shelved when fighting began.

The one-berth port, heavily guarded by men armed with AK-47 rifles, does not have a crane for loading and there are no warehouses. A rusty, disused tanker takes up a large area of the berth, but Mr. Muse said there were no tugs to take it away.

Like the rest of Somalia, there is no banking system in Bosasso, there are no veterinarians to issue health certificates for animals, and customs facilities are chaotic.

One goat trader, who did not want to be named, said he employed a man in Saudi Arabia to forge health certificates for his goats.

"I sell a goat for about \$40, but \$10 of this immediately goes to the middle man. What else can I do?" the trader said.

Pirates poach Somali waters

BOSASSO, Somalia (R) — Local leaders say pirate trawlers have taken advantage of Somalia's civil war to strip the rich fishing grounds off its northeastern coast.

"We have been robbed by sea pirates of our marine resources. They are taking advantage of our national tragedy," said Mohammad Abshir Muse, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front.

Mr. Muse said Saturday that Italian, Greek, Taiwanese, Russian and South Korean ships were "having a field day looting Somali waters of lobster, crab, tuna and other delicacies."

The former port manager, Omar Deria, said foreign ships entered Somali waters in the Gulf of Aden at night. He said the poachers used powerful spotlights and illegal, tightly spun drag nets to haul in their catch.

"When locals tried to stop them, the ships sprayed them with hot water. It's nothing more than robbery," Mr. Deria said.

Mr. Muse said Bosasso, the main port in northeastern Somalia about 650 kilometres east of Djibouti, was a bustling fishing area before the Somali war broke out just over two years ago and shut down the region's four fishing factories.

"We have one of the richest maritime coastlines in the world. Studies by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate we could export fish to the value of about \$200 million (a year). But now our fish are being stolen," Mr. Muse said.

Local leaders said they also suspected foreign nations were dumping toxic waste in Somali waters, adding that they had asked the environmental group Greenpeace to investigate.

Mr. Muse appealed to the United Nations special envoy in Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, to help stop the poaching.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 News in French
19:00 Magazine Spirit
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Power that is
21:00 Martin Ray
22:00 News in English
22:30 Jordan Week
23:00 Street Justice

PRAYER TIMES

04:57 Fajr
06:57 Sunrise
12:39 Dhuha
16:12 Asr
19:02 Maghrib
20:31 Isha

CHURCHES

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Assistance of God Church,

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Lost the nation die

THE COMMON theme of Arab gatherings this week in Amman, including today's labour conference and yesterday's meeting on population, is the search for and emphasis on the need for "joint Arab strategies." But this may be an old, worn-out theme. Unfortunately, joint Arab strategies have so far been only drawn at Arab summits because Arab policies, even at the level of population, are dictated by relations among Arab leaders themselves. And from the look of it, any hope of Arab leaders meeting at a summit conference seems to be extremely remote for now.

There can be no denial that the Arab Nation is more than at any time in its recent history in dire need of devising strategies in all the fields, foremost on the political level and on the Arabs' role in the "new world order." The current Arab division of ranks has come as a result of a devastating jolt to the Arab political order itself when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August, 1990. Nothing could of course change the facts that it was a terrible mistake, but grievances that had led to that very act should not be forgotten or dismissed even now. The imbalances that preceded the Gulf crisis and that to a great extent led to it still persist. In many respects they have been aggravated. Iraq's claim, before August 1990 that war was waged against it by Kuwait, whether real or fictitious, has been replaced by a siege against the Iraqi people as a whole. Egypt's poverty and instability have both swelled despite huge infusions of aid and debt cancellation. The plight of the Palestinians seems to have been perpetuated even more. Negotiations with Israel, the occupation of Arab lands and the tormentor of the Palestinians, are conducted in an atmosphere that is completely in Israel's favour. With the Arabs divided and Israeli ties with the U.S. improving and consolidating, Arab negotiators are bargaining from a very disadvantaged and extremely weak position. Each and every Arab state is struggling on its own against tremendous pressures, oblivious of an old Arab wisdom that says: Power lies in unity. In addition, the lot of the richer Arab countries is not much better than that of the poorer states. They are being exploited right, left and centre by Western countries and their arms manufacturers.

There is of course no instant cure for all these Arab ills, not even an Arab summit under the present circumstances. Yet the fact that Arab labour ministers are in Amman and a Kuwaiti representative is here to attend it is testimony to the need to meet and debate. Any concrete action by the Arab labour chiefs to help end Arab estrangement would be highly felt and appreciated. But this conference can take importance of its own if it only serves to remind Arabs of their woes and impress upon them the need to reunite.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWAT AL SHAAB daily Sunday commented on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent statement in which he voiced the U.S. administration's full support for Israel's programmes to settle new Jewish immigrants in Arab land. By declaring Washington's unlimited support for the Jewish state, Mr. Christopher has openly and defiantly placed his country along side Israel in the same trench facing the whole Arab Nation, said the daily. By demanding that the Arab states end their boycott of Israel, the U.S. secretary has disclosed his country's determination to back the Israeli stand at the expense of the Arab Nation's interest, the paper added. As these statements coincided with Israel's current escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied lands, they no doubt raised many eyebrows in the Arab World and astonished the Palestinian side to the peace process, said the daily. It said that Washington's intentions are the subject of suspicion with regard to its stance vis-a-vis the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions in general and Resolution 799 in particular. It goes without saying that Washington's backing for the Israeli stand, condoning Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's refusal to repatriate the expellees as demanded in Resolution 799, have given further encouragement to the Israeli government to pursue its current crimes, the paper added, by demanding that the peace process resume without the implementation of Resolution 799 and without asking Israel to terminate its inhuman practices. Washington has raised the doubts of the Arab parties about its intentions and about the claim that it was determined to act as a full partner in the peace-making process, the paper said.

Saleh Al Qabbah, a columnist in Al Dour, laments the present situation in the Arab World, which has failed to date to come up with any practical move to support the Palestinians under Israeli rule in the face of Israeli crimes. The Arab World is silent vis-a-vis Israel's atrocities and the Arab people everywhere, except in occupied Palestine, are going about their normal life as if the events in the Israeli-held territories are not of their concern, said the writer. The Arab states seem to have forgotten Palestine, which is an integral part of the Arab Nation and Arab leaders and their people are totally unaware of the cries of the children and the bereaved families under Israeli rules, the writer continued. "To those concerned, we say that a horrible massacre is being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the Islamic holy places are subjected to desecration in Jerusalem and the other parts of the occupied Arab lands," he said. If the cries of the orphaned children and the women and old people do not arouse any pity in the hearts of the Arab Nation, what else can be asked the writer. He said not a single party or group has expressed any solidarity with the Palestinians in the form of demonstrations, rallies or statements and it is time that all public sectors in the Arab World showed their genuine support, materially and morally, for the oppressed population.

Weekly Political Pulse

The unholy seeds of Serb-Muslim animosity

I HAVE always wondered how and why the Serbs sunk so low as to commit the kind of heinous crimes against the Bosnian Muslims and the Croats since the breakup of former Yugoslavia. For a while, I thought that the answer lies in the historical fact that religious wars are about the most vicious and barbaric armed conflicts that mankind had ever witnessed.

Ancient and contemporary history is indeed replete with horror stories about religious wars that spanned across all continents including Europe, the home of Western culture and modern human rights.

Then I came across a Serb who is knowledgeable about the events in his country in view of his both academic as well as official background. The amazing reason that he offered to explain the atrocities that his countrymen have been perpetrating almost daily against non-Serbs in his former country provides another dimension to the seeds of the unrivaled animosity that erupted between the Serbs and the Muslims of Bosnia.

In the estimation of this Serb personality, the root reason for the crimes against humanity that his people have been committing with considerable impunity lies in the fact that Yugoslavia, under the reign of Communism, had no religious education whatsoever, be it Christian or otherwise. In the process, his people became devoid of all moral and ethical restraints in the conduct of their daily lives.

It is shocking to know, he explained, that Communism in his country has rendered his people in particular as callous and cold blooded as any people can get in the conduct of their nationalistic dreams. This fact, he proposes, is the proximate cause of the inability of the Serbs and their leadership to restrain themselves while waging war against their fellow peoples.

I must admit I found this explanation very interesting as it tells a vivid story of how people denied religious upbringing can get as wild as wild animals in the jungle with no inhibitions whatsoever against any action to promote their national interests. In essence, therefore the conflict between the Muslims in Bosnia and the Serbs is not one between two different religious groups but rather between a religious community, in this case the Bosnian Muslims who were able to maintain their religious faith and practices in spite of the Communist rule (for no better reason than that the nature of Islam is such as to allow it to survive under the most inhumane conditions) on one and the basically atheistic Serbs.

The legacy that Communism had left to former Yugoslavia is one that aided and abetted the kind of war crimes that the Serbs have committed against the Muslims and Croats.

No wonder Russia turned out to be the most loyal and blind ally of Serbia and has done all it could to frustrate international efforts to tighten sanctions against the Serbs. The latest efforts of the United Nations Security Council to enforce its no fly zone decision over former Yugoslavia had been repeatedly put off at the insistence of Moscow.

Few days ago the Security Council finally managed to adopt a resolution to enforce the no fly zone resolution more than six months ago but only after dropping the provision allowing aerial attacks of Serbian air fields, at the request of the Bosnian government.

...people denied religious upbringing can get as wild as wild animals in the jungle with no inhibitions whatsoever, (in order to protect) their national interests.

As a matter of fact, it turned out that U.S. President Bill Clinton's loss of nerve over the Bosnian situation was out of concern for the political fortunes of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The anxiety of Washington grew out of the realisation that the Russian congress, which is constituted mostly of former Communists and hardliners was turning the screws against their president over Bosnia and has been calling for closer relations with Serbia.

It is no accident that the Communists in the Russian congress are teaming up with the basically Communist Serbs still running the show in their country and calling all the shots there. Against this backdrop, Mr. Yeltsin had to walk a tight line over the issue of Bosnia and for this purpose has been pressing Washington not to honour his presidential campaign pledge to come to the rescue of the beleaguered Bosnian Muslims.

It is odd therefore that most Arabs and Muslim have deeper

sympathies for the Russian congress in its repeated bids to oust President Yeltsin, who is by any standards, considerably more understanding of the Muslim plight in Bosnia than the Russian legislature. It is often stated that Mr. Yeltsin has always been (or suddenly turned) religious and this explains the divergence of views between him and most of the members of the Russian congress on a matter that touches the hearts of every Arab and Muslim across the world.

The moral of the Bosnian conflict is that nations need religion and must have religious education, provided, of course, it is done in an enlightened manner. Without religious standards to curb in individual and collective actions, there could be chaos not only in the societies but also among nations of the world. The deeper the education that is inculcated in the minds and souls of people, the stronger the foundation for religious coexistence can be.

In the case of Bosnia, however, the problem was not only about religion but rather about naked and primitive nationalism that was devoid of religious constraints. Hopefully, the horrific chapter in Bosnia will be over soon and the process of healing could begin once again.

Recently the U.N. Human Rights Committee was seized with the situation in a Latin American country where the government that enacted a general amnesty over all crimes against humanity that were committed in that country between 1973 and 1985, when democracy sprung roots once again. Can we ask the Bosnians to forgive and forget the atrocities that were committed against them even in the context of national reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among the Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims?

The answer must be in the negative and that is exactly what the Human Rights Committee concluded for the simple reason that there is no effective way to prevent the return to eras of crimes against humanity except by holding all those responsible accountable for their crimes.

The victims of the atrocities deserve remedies and effective remedies at that. There is no way that that could be had without proper investigation of all grave human rights violations, bringing to justice all those guilty of these crimes.

The new era of national reconciliation in former Yugoslavia must surely dawn soon but not before holding accountable all those who committed the kind of grave human rights violations that occurred there since the breakdown of the country.

New common interests

The fall of Communism changes the nature of U.S.-Russian summits

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

VANCOUVER — Past U.S. presidents went into superpower summits believing they were saving the world from Russia. Bill Clinton has gone into this one in an attempt to save Russia from itself.

The fall of Communism in Russia and the problems President Boris Yeltsin has run into have wrought a dramatic change in meetings of the leaders of the world's two main nuclear powers, underlining a new community of interests between them.

The crisis in Moscow between Mr. Yeltsin and his conservative enemies in parliament has lent an urgency to this weekend's summit in Vancouver that has not been seen since Washington and Moscow were trying to defuse the arms race.

But the subject matter has changed since those days, and with it the dynamics of the relationship between the Russian and American presidents.

The Vancouver summit sees Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton in effect united in an effort to thwart the conservative forces in Moscow, who are out to torpedo Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms and came close to impeaching him last month.

The summit theme is no longer nuclear missiles — though that lingers on as a secondary issue — but economic aid to Russia: How much and what sort will improve life for ordinary Russians and bolster Mr. Yeltsin's position?

This is a fundamental shift in the priorities of the past decades. Even after the acrimonious U.S.-Soviet encounters of the 1950s and 1960s — dominated by tensions over Berlin, Cuba, missiles and spy planes — had given way to the "detente" era, the Washington-Moscow relationship remained adversarial.

It was a fact of life that reflected the conflicting ideological systems of the two countries and was not altered by surface bonhomie. At a Vienna summit in 1979, Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev embraced and kissed each other after signing the Salt-2 strategic arms treaty.

Aides of Ronald Reagan used to boast that he and Mikhail Gorbachev called each other Ron and Misha. Mr. Gorbachev and George Bush repeatedly told the world that the cold war between their countries was over.

But behind the scenes, officials were still arguing over the same issue — who had the most nuclear warheads and how they could be reduced without impairing the security of either side.

Mr. Bush appeared to have brought that era to an end when, in one of his last acts as president, he flew to Moscow last January to sign with Mr. Yeltsin the START-2 pact intended to reduce each side's strategic arsenal by some two thirds.

At least until the Soviet Union collapsed at the end of 1991, the underlying assumption in Washington was that, even if the Communist "threat" had diminished, the Soviets were still communists and cooperation with them was limited.

In a dramatic illustration of how times have now changed, Mr. Yeltsin arrived in Vancouver denouncing Communism — in terms no U.S. president would have dared to use — for trying to turn the clock back in Russia.

"The Communists want to take revenge, to take us back to the past," thundered Mr. Yeltsin, himself a Communist until he quit the party three years ago. "Too much (aid) can be bad because it would be used by the Communists to target us."

To quiet their domestic critics, both Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton have argued that they share fundamental interests in the post-cold war era.

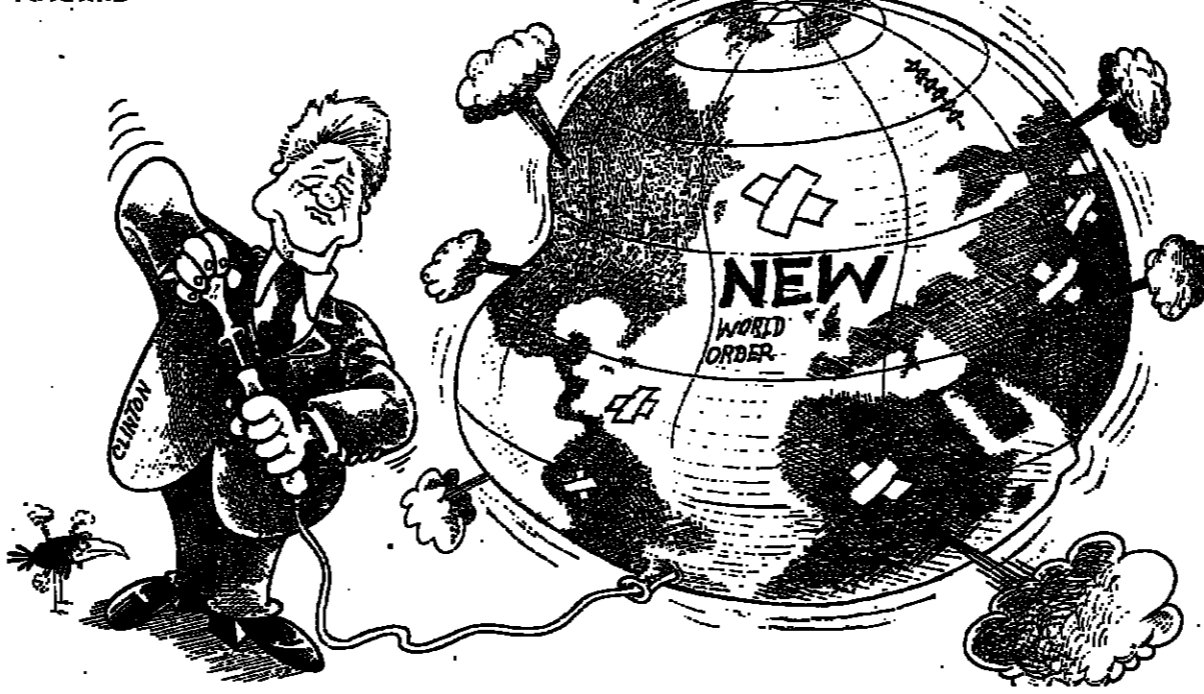
To a U.S. public unhappy with the idea of spending money on Russia, Mr. Clinton's central argument has been that preventing Russia falling back into the hands of anti-Westerners will in the long run save dollars in terms of lower defence budgets.

"It's not an act of charity," he said in a speech last Thursday. "It's an investment in our own future."

Mr. Yeltsin's supporters too see a long-term common interest in combating the opponents of his reforms.

"It's going to be a long fight and Mr. Yeltsin needs all the help he can get," said Sergei Pletkhov of the U.S.A. and Canada Institute in Moscow.

M. KAHLIL



Promise or fiction? Regional economic cooperation

By Eberhard Kienle

AS THE Middle East "peace process" drags on with little enthusiasm, though without much alternative, a growing number of minor productions are staged around the world to illustrate how beneficial and sweet peace would be. Its potential dividends are debated not only at some of the multilateral talks, but also in accompanying or anticipating seminars and conferences which are mushrooming all over the place.

The Peace Pipeline may be temporarily shelved, but just around the corner the Trans-Israel Express is waiting, ready for departure. While in the multilateral negotiations these new horizons may deflect attention from more hidden agendas, such as implicating the European Community (EC) and Japan as peace-buyers more than as peace-brokers, they more generally enable an army of specialists to market their expertise to whoever hopes to sell an oil pump or a railway sleeper.

No doubt it would be great progress if people began to travel and trade across hitherto closed borders or if even a solution could be found to share disputed resources. However, the scope for economic and technical cooperation between Israel and the Arab states is probably far more limited than its more ardent advocates would have it. Of the seven areas of potential cooperation that can be identified, only three appear to be moderately promising. There is some chance for trade and transport, but little prospect for tourism or movement of labour and capital; the sharing of certain resources appears to be inevitable in the case of water and possible in the case of electricity, but it need not entail continued and intensive cooperation.

Tourism, which Israelis have much at heart, will be a one-way road at best. Though less biblical than Egypt, Jordan and Syria may nonetheless appeal to an archaeologically interested public from Israel, much in the same way as they attract a limited number of Europeans. Move-

ment of labour, a one-way road in the obverse direction, may turn out as insignificant in size as tourism. The arrival of new immigrants has already greatly reduced employment opportunities for Palestinians in Israel. The capital-intensive tendencies of the Israeli economy and the partial demobilisation of the armed forces in peace will further reduce the need for migrant labour.

Capital movements

Important capital movements between Israel and Arab countries are hardly more likely to occur. Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, as well as Israel, are net importers of capital, unable to provide it and anxious to attract it. The 1991 investment law in Syria and the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel clearly illustrate these needs. Yet inability to export capital in both cases remain coupled with important restrictions to capital imports and investment as governments attempt to protect public and strategic sectors.

If oil prices rise, the wealthier oil monarchies and some of their citizens might again be in a better position to invest, but with its small domestic market Israel will hardly figure on top of their list. Arab markets could be flung open, but then why not directly invest in Arab countries?

As part of an internationally brokered peace deal Israel may try and gain greater access than now to markets outside the Middle East and obtain more advantageous terms than its Arab neighbours. However, even then emotional reluctance to accept or provide investment across former enemy lines may be a serious obstacle in the medium term. Investors are afraid of a hostile business environment, while receiving countries seek to avoid dependency on yet untrustworthy partners.

Scope for trade

Less fraught with dangers, and hence a more promising area of cooperation, is trade. In Syria canned food illegally imported from Israel was much in demand recently while Israeli builders were craving for cheap construction materials from Egypt which,

according to the opposition press in Cairo, served to build Israeli settlements in the territories. There would obviously be scope for trade, provided the temptations of protective tariffs to maintain inefficient public sector industries were not too great. Israel as much as Syria may choose economic policies that are socially more palatable and politically less dangerous. At any rate, free trade is conditional not only on peace.

Israeli industries may hope to find easy markets for high-technology and other advanced products which are not manufactured in Arab countries. The problem is that many of these products are at least potentially for military use and hence likely to remain subject to export restrictions. In the development and manufacturing of other advanced products it is doubtful whether Israeli industries could compete with, for instance, Taiwan or Korea, or even Turkey in some areas.

On the other hand, Arab states cannot be expected to consider peace as a reason to abandon their ambitions for technological progress and independence. Advanced and nascent high-technology industries would be the first to be protected by special tariffs; any failure to do so would inevitably exacerbate political dependency and the existing situation of unequal exchange between the Arab World and the industrialised countries. The alternative to unequal change, however, may be accepting the limitations that usually bedevil trade between peripheral or semi-peripheral countries.

Nonetheless, even limited trade necessitates transport and communications. A few more telephone exchanges will be needed, and so will roads and possibly railways. Inter-Arab transit of persons and goods through Israel will also contribute to the development of such infrastructure. However, the latter's volume need not significantly exceed that of Arab-Israeli travel and trade. Travellers between Syria or Lebanon and Egypt will largely continue to belong to the happy few who,

thanks to their business or professional activities, can afford to go abroad. They would hardly need or be ready to go through the tedium of overland travel combined with the notorious drag of Middle Eastern border controls.

The transit of goods, for its part, has to be seen in the context of inter-Arab trade statistics, which are hardly more impressive than the departure panels for inter-Arab flights at Cairo or Damascus Airport.

The dangerous water issue

Water is usually raised as the issue crying out for Arab-Israeli cooperation. Largely redundant studies, panels and conferences keep a growing number of experts busy; to underpin their importance they will ritually repeat the warning that the next Middle East war will be fought over water. Not only does the phrase imply that another war is inevitable, it also fails to appreciate that imbalances in military (and other) capacities are such that those favoured in this respect may effectively control the flow of water, wherever its source.

Most obviously this now applies to the Euphrates basin, but also to the Nile or the Jordan. Israel still has the means to impose its interests and the future of the Syrian-Jordanian dam on the Yarmouk remains in doubt. With a water deficit of up to 30 per cent in Jordan, Palestine and Israel, the matter no doubt is one of considerable urgency, but this does not ipso facto imply it will have to generate continuous and intensive cooperation.

Given a durable agreement on who gets how much and where, each riparian state might well manage its resources on its own. Should Israel get a share in the waters of the Yarmouk in return for accepting Syrian-Jordanian irrigation schemes, the actual extent of coordination again seems to be a technical matter involving little more than an agreement and a mechanism to implement it.

Dr. Eberhard Kienle is a lecturer in Middle East politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. The above article is reprinted from the Middle East International.

LETTER Promoting tourism

To the Editor:

THERE ARE many tidings that promise the future of tourism activities will be unique among all countries of the world. Jordan has an exclusive characters that enable it to take its place as a suitable destination for a great number of tourists.

Human factors are the most prominent. A good credit for Jordan is the noble nature of its people. Many tourists of different friendly relations and kindness with which they are treated. Credit should go to His Majesty King Hussein for encouraging tourism.

We also thank the ministry of tourism for providing tourism guides. Jordan's foreign policy has also urged tourism since it is based on cooperation, peace, and good terms with other countries.

Another factor, to attract tourists, is the variety of features in our country that paves the way for any researcher to fulfill his interest. During a one day-trip you can see a miniature of the globe!

Mohammad Rababah,
Amman



Egypt and Pakistan work together on Muslim militants

CAIRO (R) — Pakistan's interior minister will visit Egypt soon as part of an understanding to work together to prevent Egyptian Muslim militants using Pakistan's border province with Afghanistan as a base, diplomats said Sunday.

The agreement, from a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was Pakistan's most direct response so far to charges by Egypt and other Arab states that Muslim militants waging war on them use Pakistan's Peshawar province as a refuge.

Pakistan, under increasing U.S. pressure for allegedly sponsoring terrorism, has said it will vet over the next month nearly 3,000 Arabs drawn to the province by the Afghan Mujahideen's 10-year "holy war" against a communist government in Kabul.

Pakistan Ambassador to Cairo Mohammed Wali Allah Khashgi told Reuters Mr. Sharif asked for the meeting with Mr. Mubarak while both were independently touring Germany last week.

Mr. Sharif, in an official statement sent to the Pakistani embassy in Cairo, said he informed Mr. Mubarak of Islamabad's plans to "strictly supervise" aid and relief groups in Peshawar.

"We both expressed concern at the extremist, militant activity by some elements in the region. I informed President Mubarak of the measures being taken to strictly supervise these activities," Mr. Sharif's statement said.

Torture in trade centre case no surprise — Egyptian activist

CAIRO (R) — Charges that Egypt tortured a suspect in the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre are no surprise because "this happens always with political prisoners in Egypt," a local human rights group said Sunday.

Egyptian officials declined comment on accusations made in New York by Mohammed Abu Halima, whose brother Mahmoud Abu Halima was held 10 days before being handed over to the United States.

Mohammed Abu Halima told Reuters the Egyptian authorities beat his brother, burned him with cigarettes on most of his body, including his genitals, gave him electric shocks and threatened to rape his wife and mother and kill his son.

Hassan Bahaeddin, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, told Reuters Sunday: "This is expected. I'm not surprised that they tortured Mahmoud Abu Halima this way. 'This happens always with political prisoners in Egypt and these methods will continue to happen in the future unless the state changes its policy.'"

"Torture methods used by the Egyptian authorities against political prisoners is our daily work. Sometimes they torture even innocent people who have no links to Muslim fundamentalists just because they are suspicious of them," Mr. Bahaeddin added.

He said the torture methods mentioned by Mr. Abu Halima — beatings, burning cigarettes, electrifying sensitive organs in their bodies including genitals, and threats to rape the suspects' female relatives — were in common use in Egypt.

Egypt-born Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, was arrested at his parents' home in Kafr Al Duwar near Alexandria on March 14. He is accused of masterminding a blast that killed six and injured 1,000 in the New York skyscraper on Feb. 26.

Speaking after a visit to his brother's prison, Mohammad, 29, said Egyptian officials stripped his brother and blindfolded him during his captivity, beat him

Marine convicted of misconduct in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — A Marine Saturday became the first U.S. serviceman convicted of misconduct during Operation Restore Hope after pleading guilty to stealing two canes from a vendor, then punching him when he gave chase.

The Marine, Larry T. Thomas, was sentenced to two months confinement and a month at hard labour. He also received a fine and a reduction in rank.

Mr. Thomas and two other Marines were leaving Mogadishu's main airport in a military vehicle when the vendor approached, said Marine Colonel Fred Peck, a U.S. military spokesman here.

Mr. Thomas grabbed two canes as the vehicle drove off and when the vendor caught up with the car, Thomas punched him several times in the face, Col. Peck said.

Mr. Thomas is expected to be shipped back to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, to serve his time.

In an unrelated case, Marine gunnery sergeant Harry Conde, 33, faces a court-martial Monday on assault charges for shooting a Somali youth who swiped the sunglasses from his face. Sgt. Conde has said he thought he was being attacked and shot in self-defence.

In other developments, an Australian soldier became the 16th fatality among the U.S.-led coalition forces who arrived Dec. 9, to safeguard food shipments to the starving in this Horn of Africa country.

The Australian, Shannon McAlaney, was killed in an apparently accidental shooting in Baidoa Friday night when he was handed a rifle that suddenly discharged, said an Australian army statement.

McAlaney, 21, was hit in the right side of the chest with a bullet and died at the Australian medical unit in Baidoa.

Eight Americans, five Belgians and two Frenchmen also have died since the relief mission began.

Canadian sent home Four Canadian soldiers were flown back to Ottawa Sunday after being arrested for the possible murder in detention of a Somali man last month, a Canadian military spokesman said.

A fifth suspect, alleged to have been involved in the same incident, is in a serious condition in hospital in Canada after having tried to hang himself while in custody in Somalia, Captain Karen Mair told Reuters.

She said two military investigators had been sent to Somalia from Canada to investigate the death of Shidane Omar Aroni, who was found beaten unconscious in a holding cell at the Canadian forces camp in Belet Uen, northeast of Mogadishu, on March 16.

King reaffirms Jordan's commitment

(Continued from page 1)

Lt.-Gen. Fheid meanwhile sent a letter to King Hussein in reply to a letter the King sent to him on the occasion of his retirement on Saturday.

Gen. Fheid thanked the King for the care rendered to him and lauded the King's role in supporting and developing the PSD.

"I pride myself in belonging to the Hashemite leadership which became an example to be followed in the kind norms and noble values and good deeds," Gen. Fheid said.

"I was keen, since I had gained your sublime confidence and through all the posts I occupied and all the fields I worked in, to

be a loyal soldier, keeping my pledge and promise. Despite all I have sought and pledged to reach to rise up to the level of responsibility, I was not one day satisfied that any effort, no matter how great, would be up to the level of your sublime confidence, which is dearer than every effort and greater than any loyalty," he said.

"That's why I always felt that I am but a soldier who is exerting modest efforts in an attempt to exceed the limits of every attainable and possible, to be able to satisfy Your Majesty... and if I managed to do that, it is because of God's grace, and I do not claim the credit for it, and if I was unfortunate in achieving it, that is because it is the limitation of my capabilities," he said.

Summit produces \$1.6b aid package

(Continued from page 1)

The package will also provide \$95 million to help finance the privatisation of industry and \$50 million to support new businesses in the former citadel of communism.

The White House said Mr. Clinton had also informed Mr. Yeltsin that the United States would support Russian membership in the world trading system GATT, an acronym for General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"We think the long-term goal of drawing Russia into the world economy is paramount. That is why we're supporting Russian membership in GATT," the White House said.

The United States would also add Russia to the list of countries entitled to trade concessions under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

Under the GSP programme, the United States grants favourable import terms to 4,400 items from developing countries.

In yet another highly visible symbol of partnership between the former cold war adversaries, the White House announced that Vice-President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin would co-chair a committee on technological cooperation.

A second joint committee on trade issues will be co-chaired by U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and his Russian counterpart.

It includes \$215 million to pay for the dismantling of Russian nuclear weapons and \$6 million to resettle Red Army officers returning from the Baltic states and other parts of the former Soviet empire.

The resettlement funds will be used to build 450 houses for officers who are being demobilised on their return to Russia over the next 12 to 16 months and provide employment training to ease their transition to private life.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Israeli soldiers

(Continued from page 1)

only pose further obstacles to Middle east peace talks already stalled over the deportations.

The closure has kept 100,000 Palestinians from jobs in Israel and disrupted Israel's farming and building industries (see page 7). The jobs are a vital source of income for the Palestinians.

Arab physicians said Saturday the closure has cut off the Palestinians in the occupied territories medical care because of the five hospital of Arab East Jerusalem that provide the most advanced treatment are off limits.

Dr. Farouk Abdul Rahim said 75 per cent of the patients and medical staff in the Jerusalem hospitals are from the West Bank and Gaza. He said West Bank and Gaza doctors have been allowed to enter, but medical support staff not.

Since the closure the number of patients has dropped by at least 60 per cent, Mr. Abdul Rahim said. Most West Bank towns have hospitals, but in many cases provide only basic care.

But, Elise Shazar, spokeswoman for the West Bank military government, said since Thursday about 200 special entry permits were issued daily, most for medical treatment.

Mr. Rabin firmly backed the head of Israel's internal secret service Sunday, denouncing an Israeli T.V. report that he was being accused of abusing his office, Israel Radio said.

T.V. said Friday that a 1991 investigation accused the chief of the service, known as Shin Beth, of violating procedures, wasting money and acting inappropriately.

Radio stations quoting Mr. Rabin as expressing full confidence in the chief. They said he told the cabinet that the T.V. report was damaging to the Shin Beth.

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri told the radio the T.V. report "bordered on the criminal" and demanded that those responsible for it be punished.

Attorney general Yosef Harish and state attorney Dorit Beinisch denied the T.V. report's claim they had recommended the security chiefs' dismissal, the Haaretz daily reported.

The T.V. report did not detail the charges, and said the Shin Beth chief's personal abilities were not being questioned.

Major changes at Armed Forces

(Continued from page 1)

wished him success in his new endeavour.

In a reply to the King, Gen. Mirai expressed pride in His Majesty's wise leadership.

"Your Majesty, I am honoured to shoulder the responsibility you have invested in me as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with all of my efforts and pride because it is a great honour and responsibility," he said.

"We in the Arab Army realise the important role we carry out in defending our homeland and nation, and believe in the principles of the message of the wise Hashemite leadership, the message of the Great Arab Revolt which was led by your saviour grandfather the Sharif of Mecca, may his soul rest in peace, for the unity of this nation and its independence and

liberty from the chains of slavery to other nations," Gen. Mirai said.

"You inherited this message from them and built and constructed (the country) on solid grounds of social justice, individual freedom and democracy, and made of Jordan a civilised and developed country whose citizens feel prosperous, proud, secure and stable," he said.

"Your Majesty, you gave the Armed Forces due attention and care, and supervised arming and equipping it with the best weapons and machinery, and Your Majesty personally took part in all the stages of preparing and training it, thus becoming, thanks to your direct care, in the best shape in efficiency and the performance of its duty and a model in giving and sacrifices," he said.

Arab labour conference opens today

(Continued from page 1)

population growth in each.

The minister noted that the projected plan will focus attention on the unstable economies, the growing need of imported food and the relationship between population increases and inflation.

A report prepared by Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Director General Baker Mohammad Rasoul will deal with the role of working women and will be one of the main themes for discussion at the conference. The report focuses on the role

of working women in Islam and the modern age and women's role as chartered in United Nations and International Labour Organisation (ILO) documents.

The report deals also with the status of women in the Arab society, protection for women, training in different trades and wages as well as their involvement in trade and labour unions.

The report, calls for appropriate vocational training to be accorded to Arab women and for research and studies to be conducted in the course of promoting women's participation in economic, politically and social life of the Arab World.

Palestinian leaders debate peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO agreed in Damascus last Monday to postpone a decision on resuming the talks while they bargained with the United States for a firmer guarantee that Israel will renounce expulsions of Palestinians.

The peace process was suspended after Israel expelled to South Lebanon 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting Islamic groups that killed Israeli soldiers.

Only the fundamentalist movement Hamas, the PLO's main

rival for influence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a staunch opponent of peace talks, were unrepresented at the Tunis meeting chaired by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, officials said.

Four other members of the Palestinian negotiating team, which at Israel's insistence formally excludes the PLO, were taking part in the Tunis meeting. They were Saeb Erakat, Ghassan Al Khatib, Zakaria Al Agha and Zahira Kamel.

Faisal Al Hussein, overall coordinator for the negotiating team, was expected to join the group Sunday, PLO sources said.

ANNOUNCEMENT (Public Invitation)

Jerusalem Day Committee has the pleasure to invite you to the Lecture that will be delivered by Mr. Micheal Dumper The British researcher and Specialist in Israel Policy towards the Islamic Waqf in Palestine Title of the Lecture : What is going on In Jerusalem !! Time and Place : 6 O'clock Monday the 5th April 1993 JERUSALEM FORUM, Badre Av.No.3 Abdullah Ghosheh Street - Behind Ramada Hotel -Above Zaki Pharmacy.

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Grand National turns into grand farce

Prestigious race declared void after false starts

LIVERPOOL (Agencies) — Britain's Grand National Steeplechase, one of the world's great sporting events, turned from a racing extravaganza into a farce of false starts and red flags. Race lovers called it a "national disgrace".

The famously gruelling contest — a sporting and betting institution — was declared void Saturday after runners galloped off down the course thinking the race was on when it was really off because of a second false start.

As bookmakers faced the gigantic task of returning millions of bets, officials announced a review of starting procedures after one of the darkest days in British horse racing history.

"National disgrace", "national disaster" and "grand farce" was how the tabloid press saw the spectacle.

Peter Greenall, chairman of the Aintree Course, said there was only a "small chance" that this year's race could be re-run.

The race ran into difficulties from the outset when a protest by animal rights activists helped up proceedings. Then there was trouble with the tape at the starting line, a false start followed and the 39 runners assembled again.

A second false start was declared when the tape tangled with horses and jockeys, but most of the runners charged off oblivious after a second false start.

The recall flag was not shown the second time. It was an error. The flagman was in the correct position. The race has been declared void in the most regrettable of circumstances, clerk of the

course Rod Fabricius said. Officials waving red flags tried in vain to stall the race and several runners made it to the post, to the anger and bewilderment of the 50,000-strong crowd and the millions of television viewers who had tuned into the racing showpiece.

The face of "winning jockey" John White crumpled with anguish when he realised it was a phantom victory.

"I'm quite certain that additional contingency measures and precautions will be taken to avoid a similar incident," Fabricius said. "Undoubtedly the starter could have used a flag start after the (starting) tapes failed the first time."

At the end of the second circuit, "victory" went to 50-1 outsider Esha Ness with white in the saddle, who held off the fast-finishing Irish raider Cahervilla-how, a 25-1 chance.

As the realisation dawned that the race was a shambles, trainers and jockeys were incensed and distraught.

Trainer Jenny Pitman stormed into the weighing room in tears and shouted: "You must stop this race what are you doing? My bloody horse has already gone one circuit. I don't want to win the National like this."

Fellow trainer David Elsworth said: "It was a shambles and a great tragedy for racing."

The starter, captain Keith Brown, was booed by the crowd when he walked towards the weighing room from the start and had to be escorted by police as the crowd screamed abuse.

Bookmakers, who face a night-

mare having to pay back stake money from millions of bets, appealed for calm when the betting shops open Monday morning.

Spokesman Wally Pyrah for Corals Bookmakers said: "It will be bedlam with people queuing up to get their money back."

Champion jockey Peter Scudamore, rider of Captain Dibble, said: "People have suggested we turn up next Saturday and do it again but we can't. We will be the laughing stock of the world."

Grand National's history of drama, tragedy and treachery

No other race in the British horseracing calendar has produced as much drama, thrills and controversy as the Grand National Steeplechase.

Saturday's debacle, when the 4 1/2 mile (7.2-kilometre) race was declared void after jockeys failed to hear a false start call, is the latest in a history of dramas going back to when it started in 1836.

Since then there have been stories of heroism, tragedy and even treachery.

In 1885, a former winner, Zedone, was poisoned shortly before the race to prevent him winning.

In 1924, a former plough horse, Master Robert, won the race. Two years later, the one-eyed Glenside was the only horse in the field not to fall.

In 1938, 17-year-old English jockey Bruce Hobbs guided the

American-bred Battleship to victory. Hobbs still is the youngest winning jockey and battleship remains the last stallion to triumph.

Sheila's Cottage, winner in 1948, celebrated by biting off the finger of her jockey, Arthur Thompson.

The 1957 came the most dramatic finish. Devon Loch, owner by Queen Mother Elizabeth and ridden by Dick Francis, was powering towards the finish line clear of the field when he appeared to jump a non-existent fence and lost his footing only 50 yards from home.

E.S.B. overtook the spreadeagled Devon Loch to win. Although the beaten horse faded into obscurity, Francis went on to become a successful thriller writer.

In 1967, 100-1 shot Foinavon took advantage of a pile-up involving 20 other horses at the 23rd fence and romped clear to victory.

In 1981, Bob Champion, who fought and beat cancer, rode Aldaniti to victory and the triumph later became the theme of a movie, "Champion."

In 1986, west tip won 14 months after he was near to death from a collision with a lorry.

The race has been a target for animal rights protesters who claim it is too gruelling for the horses.

The race is some 10 minutes long and the horses must clear 30 fences, some with a deep drop on the other side. In the last 25 years, 13 horses have died although there have been no fatalities since the most feared jump, Becher's Brook, was modified in 1989 by levelling the landing side.



Michael Chang (right) and Amos Mansdorf raise their winners' plate at the Salem Open tournament Sunday (AFP photo)

Chang wins hard-fought match at Salem Open

OSAKA (R) — Michael Chang won a popular victory Sunday with a hard-fought 6-4, 6-4 win over Amos Mansdorf in the final of the Salem Open.

The second-seeded Chinese-American, who has been the focus of thrilled autograph hunters in this western Japanese city, won a fierce baseline battle in which neither player was able to win a serve in the first five games of the first set.

"It's been a great tour in Asia and it's always fun for me to play in Asia because tennis is really starting to pick up here," Chang said. "I like to try and encourage them."

Chang was seeded behind world number one Jim Courier, whose title hopes crashed in Saturday's semifinals when he lost to 30th-ranked Mansdorf in straight sets.

"I think it was a very close match," Chang added. "Amos was playing really good tennis. A few balls going one way or another could have turned around the game."

Rain started during the 10th game of the second set with Chang ahead five-four.

"I wanted to close it out at five-four definitely," Chang said. "But I didn't want to rush myself, because then I might let myself be broken."

Chang will now turn his attention to the Japan Open starting in Tokyo Monday where he is seeded third behind Courier and fellow-American Pete Sampras. Mansdorf is seeded eighth.

Graf, Sanchez Vicario in final

Top seed Steffi Graf dethroned defending champion Gabriela Sabatini and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario rallied to beat Jennifer Capriati in semifinals at the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament Saturday.

Graf looked about to demolish the third-seeded Sabatini, then withstood a remarkable comeback by the Argentine to prevail 6-0, 7-6.

Sanchez came within one game of being knocked out by the fourth-seeded Capriati, but roared back for a 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 win.

Graf goes for her 71st career title on the same clay court where she claimed her very first in 1986.

Sanchez is looking to notch number 10. The Spanish speedster won her ninth title two weeks ago when she beat Graf at the Lipton Championships.

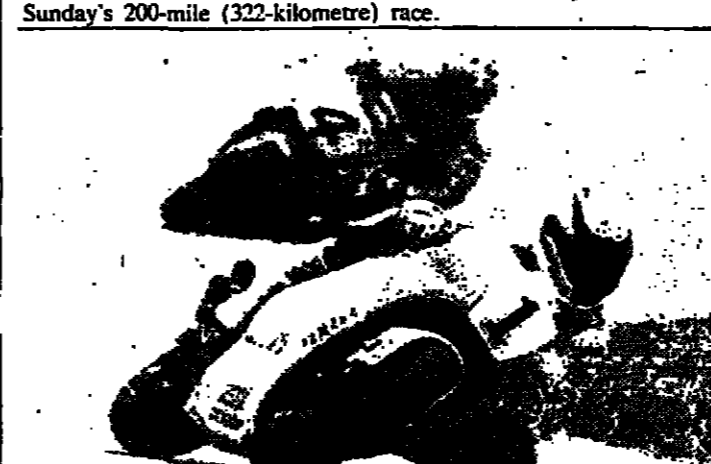
Sabatini, who won this tournament the past two years, at first appeared paralysed by Graf, who ran out to a huge 6-0, 5-1 advantage.

Crash hospitalises Mansell

PHOENIX (AP) — A hard crash Saturday in practice at Phoenix International Raceway left Nigel Mansell hospitalised with a concussion that will keep the English driver from making his IndyCar oval racing debut in Sunday's Valvoline 200.

Mansell also suffered a contusion to his right shoulder from the safety harness, but no other injuries were discovered after he was flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Centre in Phoenix. A cat scan was negative, according to IndyCar officials.

Dr. Stephan Olvey, IndyCar's director of medical affairs, and Dr. Alan Tyroch, the attending trauma surgeon, issued a joint statement saying Mansell would be kept overnight for observation and was expected to be released soon. Olvey added, however, that under series rules Mansell could not be cleared medically to drive in Sunday's 200-mile (322-kilometre) race.



World champion Wayne Rainey (No. 1) of the U.S. and Austrian Daryl Beattie (No. 4) take a corner during the Malaysian Grand Prix at Shah Alam Circuit Sunday. Rainey won the race with a time of 44 minutes 54.102 seconds (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH ©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Both vulnerable. North deals. NORTH: ♠ A Q J ♣ A Q ♢ J 6 2 ♣ K Q 8 4 3

WEST: ♠ 10 7 3 ♣ K 9 5 4 ♢ 9 8 7 ♣ 9 5 3 ♢ J 7 2

SOUTH: ♠ 8 6 2 ♣ K J 10 6 4 2 ♢ A K 8 ♣ 6

The bidding: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠ We are indebted to the newsletter of the Vanderbilt Bridge Club in Manhattan, N.Y., for this hand. See if you can make six hearts after the lead of a low diamond.

The bidding is particularly interesting. There are those who suggest that South's bid of three hearts is not forcing. The fallacy in this reasoning is that no one can possibly know the hand will produce exactly nine tricks at hearts, rather than eight or nine at no trump or 10 at

hearts. The loss of bidding space could prove very costly if South had to jump to four hearts to show a good hand, or bid a three-card suit to force partner to bid again.

Simple souls will rely on the spade finesse for the slam and go down. However, the first problem is to attempt to avoid losing a diamond trick, so you should play the jack from dummy. If East has the queen, you are going to have to dispose of a diamond on a high club, so you will have no alternative to the spade finesse.

When the jack of diamonds wins, your best line is to come to hand with a high diamond and lead a club toward the board. If the ace of clubs is with West the hand is made, unless East can get a diamond ruff. Otherwise, if West rises with the ace you have two spade discards on clubs: If West ducks, you have no club loser.

Unfortunately, East captures the queen of clubs with the ace and returns a diamond. You win, cross to the queen of hearts and ruff a club, go back to the ace of hearts and ruff another club. When both defenders follow, you are home. Draw the last trump, enter dummy with the ace of spades and discard your two spades on the king of clubs and the established fifth card in the suit.

Milan saved by 2 goals from Lentini

MILAN (R) — Gianluigi Lentini repaid some of his world record, 14-million-pound (\$21.47 million) transfer fee Saturday when he scored two second-half goals to earn AC Milan a face-saving 2-2 home draw against struggling Napoli.

Lentini, who has done little to justify his price tag since being bought from Torino last year, scored in the 57th minute with a spectacular overhead bicycle-kick goal and followed that six minutes later with a more conventional effort.

His goals cancelled out Napoli's first-half scores from Antonio Carcena, their Brazilian striker making his farewell appearance at San Siro, and Roberto Polcano and earned Milan a point which took them nine points clear of Inter at the top of the table.

In British soccer Mark Bright headed in a corner from United States midfielder John Harkes after 17 minutes of overtime as Sheffield Wednesday edged Sheffield United 2-1 Saturday to reach the final of English soccer's Football Association Cup.

Before some 75,000 fans at Wembley, Chris Waddle fired Wednesday ahead after only a



Sheffield United goalie Alan Kelly fails to catch a shot by Sheffield Wednesday's Chris Waddle in the first minute of the FA Cup semifinal. Wednesday won 2-1 (AFP photo)

minute and Alan Cork levelled for United just before half time.

In the final, also at Wembley May 15, Wednesday will meet the winner of the other semifinal between Arsenal and Tottenham.

Wednesday and Arsenal also are in the League Cup final April 18.

Rangers and Aberdeen will meet in the Scottish Cup final after semifinal victories Saturday.



Sheffield United goalie Alan Kelly fails to catch a shot by Sheffield Wednesday's Chris Waddle in the first minute of the FA Cup semifinal. Wednesday won 2-1 (AFP photo)

Ally McCoist netted his 52nd goal of the season for Rangers' winner in a 2-1 triumph over Hearts while Scott Booth scored the only goal in a 1-0 victory for Aberdeen over Hibernian.

In English Premier League action, struggling Oldham scored a 6-2 triumph over Wimbledon to help its fight against relegation but last place Middlesbrough look doomed after a 4-0 defeat at

Chelsea.

Blackburn downed Liverpool 4-1. Coventry beat Southampton 2-0 and Manchester City defeated Ipswich 3-1. Crystal Palace and Queens Park Rangers played to a 1-1 tie.

Saturday's semifinal had only just started when former Olympique Marseille star Waddle punished a foul by United defender John Pemberton by curling a 30-yard free kick into the net.

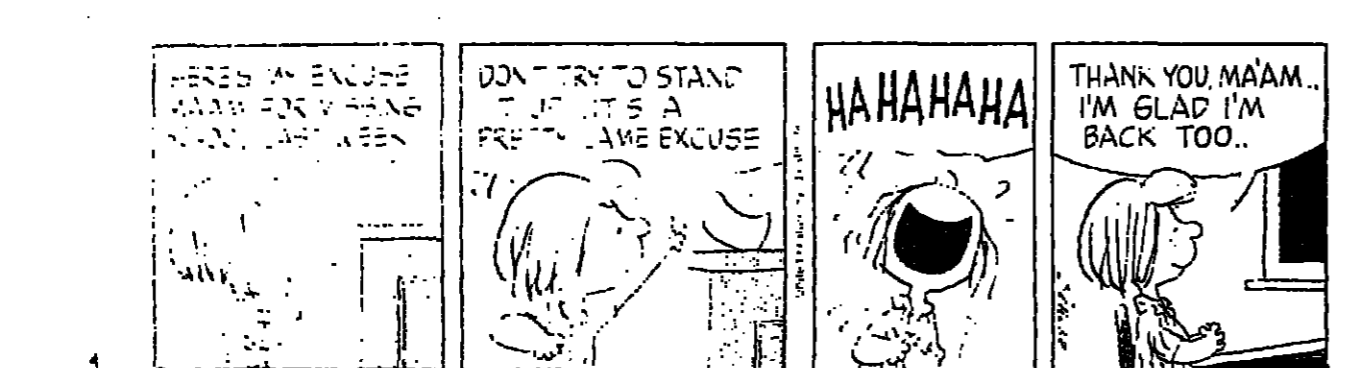
Wednesday continued to make better chances and Paul Warhurst hit the crossbar in the 19th minute and Waddle sent a 25-yard shot inches wide.

Two minutes before half time, Warhurst hit the post and, a minute later, United broke away to level. Cork beat the Wednesday offside trap to take a pass from Franz Carr and roll the ball past goalie Chris Woods into the net.

Mirko Votava scored just before halftime to give Werder Bremen a 1-0 victory over FC Kaiserslautern Saturday and a share of first place in the German First-Division.

Both teams squandered numerous scoring chances during the lackluster game in Bremen.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 5, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Do nothing to disturb the sensitive feeling of associates. Avoid controversial subjects and don't do anything that will jeopardize your good name and reputation. Show that you have your feet on the ground.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the day to retire pretty much within yourself or with a confidential advisor and privately work out arrangements for the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day for finding the ways and means to bring those personal desires that mean the most to you closer into your orbit of influence.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get your house in order in the world of outside activity so that those in positions of influence will be eager to aid you in your ambitions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should now be eager to accept some new plan of action that is at your fingertips for it can make your life much richer and fuller.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Decide just how much you want to put out of a material nature in order to have yours on a better basis and seek aid of an astute business person.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Talk out in an objective manner with a sensitive associate on how you would like your association to trend in the future and make agreements.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can best do to uphold your part of any workload that is jointly with fellow associates and you get much respect from them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You know how you want to enjoy yourself the most and make appointments during the daytime to do so but be sure to find out the cost involved.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever tensions have existed at your dwelling should be reconciled now so that there is more harmony and accord in the future during the day.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have many opportunities today to communicate and put your points across to others in your best and most practical, sensible manner.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a good common sense awareness of what to do today so that you will be able to increase the good things in your life, with the aid of an expert.

PISCES: (Feb. 20 to March 20) Think about the various personal longings that you have and make some overt actions to make them an actual part of your daily existence.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"Starting today I'm going to be a lot nicer to everyone. Hey, bozo, I'm talking to you!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HANEY
GERME
YADLAM
BOLLAG

A NAME EVERY NEW MOTHER-IN-LAW WANTS TO BE CALLED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the correct answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TONIC BULGY FASTEN GRISLY

Answer: The kind of toast the new bride and groom made—BURN!

THE Daily Crossword by Glenton Potgrave

ACROSS
1 Flows out
5 Strong grasp
9 Woody vine
14 Life force
15 Impulse
16 Destination
17 Some Cal. natives
19 Walk in
20 Rip
21 Stolen goods
22 "In the bag!"
24 Very objectionable
26 Hernando de
28 Wrapper
30 Do what others do
37 Tangled situation
38 Slide dish
40 Posted a letter
42 Search intensely
44 Travel
45 Cross to bear
47 Carries
48 Can material
50 Brazilian port
52 Men of mixed ancestry
54 Ugly mark
56 Witnessed
57 Passport, e.g.
60 Truant
62 Nullity
68 Artist Claude
69 Brimmed container
70 Solo
71 Woodwind
72 Without
73 Cried like a cat
74 Be iffy
76 Fruit source

DOWN
1 Rebelah's son
2 German city
3 Computer program flaws
4 Short section
5 Imaginary troubadours
6 Race
7 Much loved one

8 Mex. money
9 Inner cities
10 Howard or Liebman
11 Opposer
12 Swinburne, e.g.
13 Goes astray
18 Hideaways
20 Surprise word
22 Make into law
27 Actor Sharif
28 Flings
29 "Turdout," e.g.
30 Pelican
31 "I do" utterer
33 Military assault
34 TV's tin
35 Wonderlands
38 Music makers
41 Make lace
43 Took umbrage
46 Settled in an area
48 Second material
51 Carpenter's item
61 Ear part
63 Long way off

57 Mosque prayer leader
58 Gave out charity
59 Slier's need
61 Ear part
63 Long way off

64 Correct musical key
65 Different suffix
66 Weight

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

WINDY FROM RAIN
LIONA SLOPE RAIN
MAINT PAPERLESS
PROPERLY GRANTED
PLANNED PEA
HUSKIES GARRAGED
EAK HONEST SILENT
ACID SPORED RICH
TENDS ADDED RICH
ARISTOCRAT SCORCH
ONE OSTER
ARTIFICIAL ELEVATION
HIDEPAPER RAIN
SASH REED RICH

Azeris muster forces to fight back

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan mustered fresh fighting strength Sunday to repel Armenian forces it said had captured nearly a tenth of its territory.

An Azeri television journalist in the capital Baku said the government was hastily assembling fresh combat units to repel a major Armenian offensive.

"New battalions are being formed, including a women's battalion," the journalist said by telephone.

The former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan are locked in an undeclared war over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. More than 2,500 people have been killed in five years of fighting.

Azeri radio said President Abulfaz Elchibey, who declared a two-month state of emergency throughout the country Friday, had appointed 21 military commanders of cities and districts.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said Saturday that Armenian forces had seized the western Azeri town of Kelbadzhar and controlled a broad swathe of surrounding territory.

It said Armenia had succeeded in punching a new land corridor through Azeri territory to Nagorno-Karabakh, and almost a tenth of Azerbaijan was in enemy hands.

Mr. Elchibey, head of the nationalist Popular Front, was elected president last June, three months after his predecessor resigned in disgrace over a series of defeats in the Karabakh conflict.

In Friday's emergency decree, Mr. Elchibey, 53, ordered a curfew and banned political activity by parties and movements that might destabilise the situation in the Transcaucasian state.

He also imposed restrictions on entry, exit and travel within the country, as well as censorship on all media.

The Azeri journalist said the situation in the capital was calm. "People in Baku agree with the state of emergency and support it," he said.

The journalist, who visited Kelbadzhar region Saturday, said there was intensive fighting there and thousands of refugees, some driving sheep and cattle, were trying to flee.

Azerbaijan claims Armenian regular forces and Russian troops launched a two-pronged attack on Kelbadzhar on March 27 to drive a new land corridor through to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Most of the enclave's population is Armenian, but it is surrounded by Azeri territory and theoretically ruled by Baku.

Armenia denies its regular troops are involved, saying the

fighting is being conducted by self-defence forces from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Felix Mamikonyan, Armenia's permanent representative in Moscow, quoted Karabakh officials as saying they launched the latest offensive because Azeri forces were using Kelbadzhar as a base for shelling Armenian and Karabakh territory.

Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency reported from Baku that the Azeri towns of Kazakh and Taz, near the Armenian border in northwestern Azerbaijan, had come under Armenian artillery fire. It said three people had been killed.

Armenia has a mutual defence pact with Russia and several other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), obliging Moscow to protect Yerevan if Armenia's territorial integrity is threatened.

Azerbaijan, which is not party to the CIS treaty, has traditional close ties to NATO member Turkey.

An Azeri Defence Ministry statement said about 40,000 civilians had been evacuated from the battle zone, but 15,000 more had been trapped in the south of Kelbadzhar.

Refugees were trekking north along the only road out of Kelbadzhar.

"About 150 civilians have died on the mountain pass as a result of the shelling and frostbite," the statement said.

Turkey said Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia.

"As long as blood continues to be shed, Turkey cannot allow Armenia to be aided through its territory even though it is humanitarian aid," government spokesman Akin Gonen said in a statement.

"Wheat delivery has been stopped. Any other passage will not be permitted," he said.

Mr. Gonen said Turkey had contacted Russian, U.S. and French leaders and diplomats over Armenian attacks on Kelbadzhar.

"All the three countries have appealed to Yerevan but the attacks have not stopped yet," he said.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said earlier Saturday Turkey was running out of patience with its neighbour.

"If the Armenian oppression of the Azeri people does not end shortly and the attacks are not stopped, it would be known that Turkey's patience is running out," he was quoted by Anatolian News Agency as telling a crowd in the western city of Bursa.



An Armenian fighter takes aim before using his anti-tank weapon against Azeri positions in Nagorno-Karabakh (AFP photo)

Poll shows Danish support for Maastricht

COPENHAGEN (R) — Support is steady for a "yes" vote in Denmark's second referendum on the European Community's Maastricht Treaty, according to an opinion poll published Sunday.

The survey by the Gallup Institute, published in the daily Berlingske Tidende, showed that 48 per cent of those questioned would vote "yes" in the May 18 referendum while 27 per cent favoured "no" and 25 per cent were undecided or would not vote.

The poll, in which 1,014 Danes were interviewed between March 26 and April 1, indicated that support for the treaty had stabilised at a lower level after a period of gradual decline.

In Gallup surveys, the "yes" vote fell in four consecutive polls from 54 per cent on Feb. 7 to 47 per cent on March 21 before edging up to 48 per cent in a poll published a week ago.

Two polls by other institutes published earlier this week also bucked the trend of a gradual decline in support for the EC's blueprint for economic, monetary and political union.

Danes voted against the treaty by 50.7 per cent to 49.3 per cent in June last year, blocking Europe-wide implementation of the deal and plunging the Community into crisis.

The new vote will be on a revised deal agreed with the Community at a summit in Edinburgh in December, allowing Danes to opt out of long-term plans for a common currency, joint defence, union citizenship and supranational police co-operation.

Meanwhile the queue of countries eager to get closer to the European Community will move forward a few important paces Monday when EC foreign ministers deal with suitors from wealthy Scandinavia to the former Soviet Bloc.

Yeltsin jet-lagged but Clinton appetite unimpaired — chef

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — Boris Yeltsin may have suffered from jet lag when he sat down to a summit dinner Saturday, but Bill Clinton had no trouble cleaning his plate, John Bishop, chef at Seasons Restaurant in Vancouver, said the Russian president only picked at his food but his U.S. counterpart showed an extremely good appetite.

"There was not a morsel left on the plate," Mr. Bishop said. "We get quite a lot of celebrities here, but this has been the highlight of my culinary career." The cuisine was a long way from the fare at McDonalds which helped made the plump Clinton famous during his election campaign jogs last year. Mr. Bishop started them off with a course of ravioli stuffed with fresh dungeness crab and spinach, with a light fennel sauce and sprinkled with parmesan cheese. Next came salmon, sugar-snap peas, banana squash and mashed potatoes rolled with vermicelli, followed by a salad of romaine lettuce with a dressing of roasted beetroot vinaigrette. Dessert was a blueberry tart with lemon zest and maple ice cream.

The leaders drank a California Chardonnay that Mr. Clinton had brought along. Mr. Bishop had wanted to serve blueberries and said he had searched from Chile to New Zealand but couldn't find top quality blueberries, so he called the ever-resourceful White House, which brought them along, too.

Shipwreck salvor claims he found 964-carat emerald

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A shipwreck salvor says he has found a 964-carat emerald off the coast of Florida that he believes was once intended as a gift to Queen Isabella of Spain. Victor Benious, a West Palm Beach restaurateur and head of the Archaeological Discovery Ventures Inc., said he was commissioned by descendants — now living in Argentina — of the Spanish ducal family Juana De Zuniga. He believes the gem is the legendary Isabella Emerald. According to the reference book "great gems of the world," the Isabella Emerald dates to the early 1500s. Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes promised one of several big South American emeralds to the queen in exchange for support of his new world explorations. Stories vary but it was believed she never received the gem. The Isabella Emerald, as it became known, was eventually purchased in the new world by a wealthy family and registered as part of the cargo on a ship returning to Spain in the late 1750s, Mr. Benious said. But the ship never arrived. The ship's wreckage was discovered in the summer of 1992, and the gem was found among the treasures brought to the surface a few months later, Mr. Benious said. He said he didn't release news of the discovery until Friday because he wanted to confirm first that the gem was the Isabella Emerald. He says he has research supporting that claim and that the uncut Emerald, measuring about 4 inches by 2 inches (10 by 5 cms), is larger than the 858-carat gem on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Couple charged with leaving mother without heat

BREVARD, N.C. (AP) — An elderly couple was charged with assault for allegedly leaving the wife's 96-year-old mother in an unheated house during a blizzard last month, causing her to lose both her feet to frostbite. Betty Fogarty, 75, and her husband, Arnold Fogarty, 79, of the Mountain Retirement Community of Conestee Falls, were arrested Friday and released on \$10,000 bond, authorities said. The couple each face a charge of felony assault on a handicapped person and a misdemeanor charge of failure to support a parent. Mrs. Fogarty's mother, Emily Haring Jones, underwent a double amputation at Transylvania Community Hospital and is recovering at a local nursing home, said detective Keith Fisher of the county sheriff's department. An investigation began on March 18 after a home health care worker discovered Ms. Jones suffering from frostbite in the house she shared with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. Fisher said. Authorities said she was left in the house during the previous weekend's blizzard. Electric service to the home went out on March 12 and was restored three days later. Mr. Fogarty said his mother-in-law refused to leave the house when they went to a neighbour's dwelling that had heat.

U.S. may help Russia gain access to arms markets

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — The United States believes it can and should help open new markets to Russia's arms industry and this is among the subjects to be discussed Sunday between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

Fears have grown in the West that as Russia plunges deeper into economic and political chaos, Moscow will be tempted to sell arms indiscriminately for hard currency.

"That's something we're looking at very specifically, how can we give them access to legitimate markets so they don't have to go out and shop their stuff around in illegitimate markets," the administration official told reporters. "I think there are several ways we can look at doing that and that's one of the subjects we'll be talking about tomorrow," he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, briefed reporters during the first day of summit talks between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin, which focused on ways to help Russia make the transition to free markets and democracy.

Mr. Clinton has made stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems a priority of his administration. U.S. officials acknowledge that Russia's arms industry is a lucrative export earner.

These officials have indicated they are not trying to stop the Russian sales altogether, just limit them to the least destabilising kinds of weapons and keep them from governments the United States regards as renegade.

Russian officials recently asked Washington to help them gain access to appropriate arms markets, which they say are now closed to them.

"We realise that they have some legitimate needs for access to high technology markets but they have to stay within the boundaries and that's very important," the U.S. official said, adding: "That's what the trade-off is. That's what the partnership is."

Russia's sale of an advanced submarine to Iran was a major concern to Washington. Some U.S. defence experts said it would greatly increase Tehran's capability in the Gulf.

Several months ago, however, Mr. Yeltsin suggested that his country could stop producing military submarines.

Central Intelligence Agency Director James Woolsey recently told Congress about concerns that Russia was pursuing the sale of missiles that violate an international accord designed to limit transfers of destabilising arms to regions like the Middle East.

One sale involved rocket engine technology to India. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Saturday that Russia has promised the United States that Moscow will not follow through on certain sales.

He refused to go into detail but told the Cable News Network (CNN) Newsmaker Saturday programme: "We received indications from them with respect to various sales that they won't make... their cooperation has been good up to this point and we're continuing to negotiate with them on other sensitive matters around the world."

U.N. resumes aid to Sarajevo; food convoy reaches Srebrenica

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations resumed aid flights to Sarajevo Sunday and sent a convoy to the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica to deliver food and evacuate refugees.

The air bridge to the Bosnian capital was halted more than two weeks ago after a British cargo plane was fired on by an anti-aircraft battery as it prepared to land.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia said 17 flights, each carrying 10 tonnes of food, were expected during the day and 16 Monday. The flow of essential supplies in Sarajevo coincided with renewed efforts to alleviate the plight of 40,000 Muslims blocked in Srebrenica since the start of Bosnia's civil war a year ago.

Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the Bosnian Serb army honoured a promise to let the convoy reach its destination after being turned back Saturday.

The UNHCR has evacuated nearly 5,000 people from Srebrenica over the last two weeks but 13 women and children have died

in the chaos surrounding the convoys.

In an attempt to prevent a repetition, the latest convoy was accompanied by eight empty trucks which were waiting in the no-man's land between Muslim and Serb territory to relieve overcrowding.

A U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo said the Srebrenica area was quiet Sunday after heavy fighting the day before in which Sarajevo Radio said at least eight were killed.

The shelling within 500 metres of Srebrenica lasted into the evening but "subsided considerably overnight," Lieutenant Commander Barry Frewer said. He complained Saturday that the fighting was a flagrant breach of the week-old ceasefire in Bosnia's civil war which began exactly a year ago.

The U.N. did not know whether Muslims or Serbs were responsible for the outbreak.

At a meeting in New York Saturday, the Security Council renewed a call for more U.N. troops to be stationed in eastern Bosnia, where Serb forces made

big advances against Muslim settlements earlier this month.

It did not respond to a plea by Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, for U.N. forces to turn the Srebrenica area into a safe haven guarded by U.N. troops.

The Bosnian Serb parliament at the weekend rejected part of a peace plan for Bosnia that would redraw the former Yugoslav republic's ethnic map because the Serbs would be forced to give up land they now hold.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he believed the Serbs might still accept the Bosnian peace plan drawn up by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and indicated it might be adjusted to meet Serb concerns.

"Hardline Bosnian Serb deputies meeting in the southern Bosnian town of Bileca ignored warnings that rejection of the maps proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen could bring even tougher U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia."

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic denied that the parliament had completely abandoned the Vance-Owen plan.

Los Angeles prepares for new riots

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Calmly and methodically, with military precision and business savvy, the city is preparing for the possibility of another round of rioting.

From the police with their new riot gear to the shopkeepers with an extra gun under the counter, everyone seems to have a contingency plan for the day verdicts are announced in the second trial of four police officers for beating black motorist Rodney King.

"We feel that the only way to handle this thing is to be aware, in a mature way, and be prepared," said John Cencak of Jones Lumber Co., which plans to hire more security guards for verdict day.

Jones Lumber is in south-central Los Angeles, the heart of three days of rioting last year that followed the officers' acquittal on most charges in state court.

The violence left more than 50 people dead and caused \$1 billion in damage.

N. Korea accuses IAEA inspectors of bias

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea, defending its refusal to accept further nuclear inspections, accused the United Nations inspection agency Sunday of unfair bias against the Communist state.

A statement by an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman said the United States was trying to stifle North Korea, and that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was acting under U.S. manipulation.

"The IAEA must stop acting in a despotic manner, reading the faces of big powers, but carry on its activities independently according to its statute and regulations," said the statement, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

North Korea announced last month it was withdrawing from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty after the IAEA demanded special inspections of two additional sites to help clear up what

U.N.: Khmer Rouge killed peacekeepers in cold blood

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three U.N. peacekeepers killed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas were victims of what appeared to be cold-blooded executions, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

In Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen proposed at a meeting of the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC) that Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan should be tried for genocide for ordering massacres of ethnic Vietnamese civilians.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation, told the same meeting — which Khieu Samphan attended — that

about 100 people had been killed in racial and political attacks in the past month. They included members of his force.

Mr. Akashi's U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has blamed the Khmer Rouge for most of the attacks.

The three peacekeepers, all Bulgarians, were killed in the southern province of Kompong Speu Friday after their attackers had been invited to dinner at their base, UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt told a news briefing after the SNC meeting.

Patten ready for Hong Kong talks

LONDON (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten said Sunday he was willing to talk to China over his controversial democracy plans for the colony "at any time, any place" and pledged to remain in the job until 1997.

Mr. Patten, in an interview with British Broadcasting Corporation Television, said China had softened its opposition to talks with Britain and Hong Kong over the proposals he launched last October and he hoped they would do so again.

"I very much hope that we will see another adjustment in Chinese policy," the governor said. "For our part we are happy to talk at any time, any place,

anywhere."

He added that he was ready to "tango anywhere" — repeating a phrase, ridiculed in China, that it took "two to tango" in talks aimed at resolving the Anglo-Chinese dispute over his plans to increase democracy in the colony.

Mr. Patten said China had at first refused to talk unless his proposals were withdrawn. They had then agreed to "talks about talks" but these had broken down over Chinese objections to the inclusion of Hong Kong officials in the British delegation.

The governor, on a two-week visit to consult with Prime Minister John Major, said he felt sure Peking would eventually agree to a dialogue over the plans and that

a "mutually satisfactory" outcome could be found.

Asked about reports Peking wanted him to be replaced as governor of Britain's last major colony, which reverts to China in 1997, Mr. Patten replied: "I agreed with the prime minister... to take this job on for five years and I intend to see it out."

Mr. Patten has been subjected to personal attacks from Peking and his proposals, which would effectively allow Hong Kong's people to elect the majority of their legislature for the first time in 1995, have come under sustained criticism.

Opinion polls show support for Mr. Patten in Hong Kong has slipped since last October.

Kozyrev predicts chaos if Yeltsin falls

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Sunday predicted "chaos and disintegration" for his country if President Boris Yeltsin was ousted from power.

Mr. Kozyrev, accompanying Mr. Yeltsin at his Vancouver summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said in a television interview the Russian leader's conservative enemies, if they took power, would try to restore the Soviet Union, "which is impossible."

"Yes, back to the cold war," the minister said on the NBC programme Meet The Press.

"This attempt will fail but it will cost dearly to Russia and probably to the outside world, and the most probable outcome after a short period of dictatorship... will be just chaos and

disintegration of the country," Mr. Kozyrev said, speaking in English.

Mr. Kozyrev, who has pursued a strongly pro-Western policy, is along with Mr. Yeltsin one of the principal targets for criticism in the conservative Russian legislature, which came close to impeaching the president a week ago.

Mr. Clinton is due Sunday to announce details of an aid package for Russia as part of an attempt by Western leaders to bolster Mr. Yeltsin's economic reform programme.

Mr. Kozyrev said it was hard to predict the outcome of a referendum called in Russia for April 25 as a vote of confidence on Mr. Yeltsin, but said the president had received a warm reception in the city of Magadan on his way to

the summit.

Mr. Kozyrev described as a "tragic mistake" the decision by Bosnian Serbs to reject the peace plan for the former Yugoslav republic put forward by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

But, expressing apparent scepticism about tough action against the Serbs, he called for "pragmatic approaches" to what he described as an alarming situation in Bosnia.

He said Russia would continue to press the warring factions in Bosnia to accept a compromise based on the Vance-Owen plan.

"I hardly see anyone in the United States or elsewhere who is prepared to send at least more than 100,000 ground troops to fight in Bosnia. It seems to be totally out of the question," he said.

South Africa in violation of the nuclear treaty.

"Nevertheless," it added, "the United States does not utter a word about its own criminal act and the illegality of the development of nuclear weapons by South Africa," but raises suspicion about North Korea's nuclear programme.

"This clearly shows that the real intention of the United States is to stifle our republic," it declared.

Meanwhile a British Sunday newspaper said it had obtained classified intelligence documents which confirmed widely held suspicions that North Korea was building a secret nuclear weapons plant.

The Sunday Times said Western intelligence experts have discovered "alarming evidence" of a nuclear plant northwest of the capital at Yongbyon and believed North Korea was closer to building a nuclear bomb than Iraq was

before the Gulf war.

"Classified documents obtained by the Sunday Times show that for the last 18 months the secretive Stalinist dictatorship has been building a heavily disguised underground nuclear complex," said the report in early editions of the newspaper distributed Saturday night.

The Sunday Times said satellite photographs showed the plant, 60 miles (100 kilometres) northwest of the capital, had been laid with pipes and fitted with other equipment characteristic of a weapons plant — such as concrete slabs used as radiation shields.

The site, which Pyongyang says is a military installation, was later disguised with earth and trees.

The newspaper also said that minutes of meetings by the International Atomic Energy Agency showed officials had expressed concern about plutonium apparently missing from North Korea's official inventory.